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January 6, 2012 • No 220

Leader hints he may step down when regeneration concludes

Exclusive by Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

COUNCIL leader Andrew Bowles says his ambition will be "exhausted" once the regeneration of Sittingbourne is complete – his first hint as to when his reign will come to an end.

Cllr Bowles, 59, has been leader of the local Conservative Party since 1995 and is Swale Borough Council's longest serving leader, having taken over in 2002.

But opponents shouldn't expect him to be moving over quite yet – work on the town centre is not expected to be completed until some point between 2017 and 2020.

Speaking to YourSwale, the council leader said: "No-one can go on forever. I have been the longest-running leader at Swale and I've gone into every election assuming I will lose, and every Conserv-

ative annual meeting assuming I will be replaced. I am never complacent.

"I still love this job; you have to love it to do it to the degree I do.

"But once Sittingbourne's regeneration is complete then my ambition will be exhausted. I'm determined to get this town centre finished."

The ambitious project, spearheaded by the Spirit of Sittingbourne consortium, will see a multi-million pound investment designed to deliver £150m of economic improvements and create hundreds of jobs.

Among the projects planned will be a major influx of cultural attractions, and Cllr Bowles hopes some form of performance space will line-up with plans for a multiplex cinema in the town.

Cllr Bowles added: "If we can get some sort of performance space area or hall – we're not going to try and replicate

Continued on page 2



BRUSH WITH LIFE

ART: How war veteran's life was transformed by meeting with nightclub boss **SEE INSIDE**

SCIENCE

Could this end world famine?

A REMARKABLE scientific breakthrough in Sittingbourne could be set to transform the lives of millions with a system which allows seeds to be grown and then be ready to eat in just seven days. Now it has scooped a top award and is being touted as a solution to world hunger.

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ENVIRONMENT

Sheppey gets green boost

A GROUNDBREAKING project aimed at reducing the borough's carbon footprint, while potentially saving residents thousands of pounds, has been given the green light for Government funding. The scheme, the first of its kind in England, will roll out in Rushenden, on Sheppey.

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SPORT

Marsh thrives Down Under

A PROMISING wicketkeeper is feeling the benefits of a move to spend the winter training full-time at the elite Darren Lehmann Academy in Australia.

Christian Marsh, son of Kent stalwart Steve, is revelling in the world class facilities and is hopeful of securing a deal to play county cricket.

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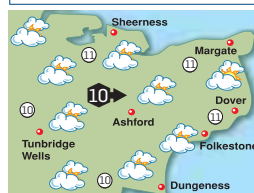
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TODAY: Dry with some morning sun, but turning overcast later. The chance of a few spots of rain. Moderate westerly winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	09.42	5.9	22.09	6.1
Margate	10.40	4.2	23.04	4.4
St Mary's	03.16	5.0	15.36	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Monday	Max 9C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 9C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 9C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 6C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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REGENERATION

High hopes for the future of town, but better roads needed

Continued from front page

the Marlowe – and things like bowling alleys, if we can get all of that out of the regeneration of Sittingbourne it will bring the feel-good factor to Sittingbourne and Swale and that will make it look so much more attractive for an investor.”

Cllr Bowles has also once again called for an extra junction off the M2 motorway to help ease traffic in villages

around Sittingbourne.

But while he describes it as “essential” in the long-term, he admits getting the go-ahead for such a multi-million pound scheme is a long way from ever becoming a reality.

Speaking of his outstanding long term ambitions for the borough, he said: “I still believe we need to solve the roads.

“To relieve the likes of Teynham, Bapchild and Lynsted and Ospringe we need another link on the motorway

between Sittingbourne and Faversham.

“I don’t think that’s anywhere near imminent but it is essential for the long-term.”

The squeeze on public spending will almost certainly mean any hope of an extra junction is a decade away at the very least, but there are other achievements he believes can be achieved more swiftly.

In particular, he wants wind turbine giant Vestas see through its promise to set up a

major factory in Sheerness, and with it the creation of 2,000 new jobs.

He said: “We are taking every step possible to ensure Vestas go through with its plans and it is already spending money. It’s not pie in the sky.”

“But if we can get that sort of industry into Sheppey, that high-class, high-paid employment and all the knock-ons, it will make a huge difference.

“It’s like Pfizer at Thanet – when it pulled out there were

an equivalent number of people servicing the site who lost their jobs.

“From the top-end engineering works that provides supplies to them, to the chap who runs the burger van and the taxis driving their executives to and from the railway station.

“By getting the likes of Vestas into Sheppey it will help generate a huge boost to the local economy.”

■ **For news and sport see** www.yourswale.co.uk

CRIME

Cash and car confiscations from drug dealers show that crime doesn't pay

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

POLICE have confiscated more than £3.5 million from criminals across the county over the last eight months as crooks are made to cough up their ill-gotten gains.

And £101,000 of the £3.69m seized came from a criminal in Sittingbourne who was sentenced in 2009 to two years’ imprisonment for money laundering.

Norrie John Hyde, 43, was ordered to pay £101,000 at a confiscation hearing at Maidstone Crown Court in May, 2011.

He had been sentenced in 2009 after being arrested and charged in December 2008.

Some £66,690 was attributed to Hyde and was forfeited in July last year.

The benefit from his criminal behaviour was certified by the judge as £101,000 and an order was made for him to pay this amount within six months or serve a two year sentence.

The money he benefited from came from a large drugs supply gang between Kent, Bournemouth and south Wales. The prosecution believed Hyde was an



SEIZED: Once property of a drug dealer, this Range Rover is used to raise awareness

investor in this scheme.

His was just one of the cases where cash has been recouped from the Proceeds of Crime Act.

A black Range Rover Sport, seized in

one such case from a drug dealer during a Kent Police operation, has been branded with anti-drug crime messages and used around the county to enforce the message that ‘crime can cost you

more than just your freedom’.

During the summer of 2011, it was parked outside addresses where drug warrants have been executed, prisons around the county including Sheppey, and other key locations.

In addition to the £3.6m, just under £570,000 has been subject to forfeiture from criminal profiteering.

Forfeiture hearings are held to ensure that anyone profiting from crime and not being convicted is still held to account by the courts.

The Serious and Economic Crime Unit at Kent Police targets offenders benefiting from proceeds of crime and brings them before the courts under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) to ensure no-one gains from their criminal activity.

Detective Inspector Mark Fairhurst of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: “Criminals may believe they are becoming smarter at hiding assets but our investigators will trace them and bring them before the courts to recover the proceeds from their criminal behaviour.”

A total of around £9m was recovered through POCA by Kent Police in 2010 – one of the highest in the UK.

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WEATHER

Our lucky escape from storm's frenzy of death and destruction

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

HEAVY winds and rain made it a miserable return to work and school this week – but emergency services say the borough emerged relatively unscathed.

While there were various reports of trees being blown over by Tuesday's gale force winds, the only major incident occurred when the storms returned on Thursday morning, causing trouble on the roads in Sheppey.

Large amounts of surface water on the A249 near Iwade led to traffic delays during Thursday morning's rush-hour as motorists approached the Sheppey Crossing. The main problems occurred on the Sheppey Way between the Old Ferry Road junction in Iwade and A2 Keycol Hill junction in Sittingbourne.

However, unlike the QEII Bridge at the Dartford Crossing, which was forced to close on both Tuesday and Thursday due to high winds, the Sheppey Crossing remained fully operational.

Rail commuters, already facing up to increased ticket prices which came into force on Monday, found their way to work in London hindered by signalling problems on the north Kent line. On Tuesday morning problems on the Southeastern route meant services between Margate and Faversham were either cancelled or delayed, having a knock-on effect for travellers boarding services at Rainham and Sittingbourne.



WHIPPED UP: Waters were choppy off the coast of Sheppey as storms hit the borough this week

The rest of the county faced more problems. In Gillingham a large trampoline was blown from a garden onto the A2 causing problems for drivers. Rochester Castle was forced to close when winds speeds got to 64mph.

Dangerous conditions in the Channel forced the Port of Dover to cancel crossings until mid-afternoon on Tuesday, but the brave crews of the Dungeness and Dover RNLI lifeboats were forced out into the stormy waters to rescue a sail training boat in distress.

And in Tunbridge Wells, a 51-year-old builder from Tonbridge, Christopher Hayes, was killed when a tree fell onto the stationary van he was sitting in on Tuesday afternoon. Remarkably, his passenger had leaned down to pick up a cigarette lighter at the precise second the tree fell.

Passers-by smashed the window of the van and pulled him to safety. He emerged unhurt.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Woman and pet saved

FIRE crews cut a woman and her pet dog from her car following a smash between Sittingbourne and Faversham on the M2.

The crash, on the London-bound carriageway, took place on New Year's Day. The woman of a Toyota Celica is thought to have lost control between junctions five and six. Fearing a spinal injury, crews from both Faversham and Sittingbourne were called to the scene to cut her and her dog free. Both were unhurt.

➔ Brawl at restaurant

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a mass brawl which erupted at an Indian restaurant in the early hours of New Year's Day.

The fight erupted at the restaurant on the A249 at Stockbury – the main road linking Maidstone to Sheerness. The incident is reported to have occurred at around 2.40am on January 1 when two groups of diners started fighting.

As a result, a number of people were taken to hospital for treatment.

➔ MP takes to the road

GORDON Henderson is taking his advice surgeries on the road.

After previously only holding appointments at his constituency office in Periwinkle Court in Milton Regis and Sheerness' Sheppey College, from February he will tour a number of village halls around Sheppey and Sittingbourne to stage drop-in advice surgeries between the hours of 5-6.30pm. For full details of where they are due to be held see the Conservative MP's website at www.gordonhendersonmp.org.uk.

GOVERNMENT

All change in council's corridors of power as faces come and go

THE new year has brought a shake-up within the corridors of power at Swale House, with a number of changes within the Tory cabinet.

Among the most significant moves are the return of John Morris, the Sheppey Central councillor, who returns after illness to head up communities.

Meanwhile, Bryan Mulhern, member for Abbey ward in Faversham, steps down as cabinet member for culture.

Leader of the council Andrew Bowles said: "These changes are a reflection of the impact that the deputy cabinet members were having. It is both me and the council recognising that they have done an exemplary job."

"I kept a space for John so he could return to cabinet after he was unwell. It was always expected he would come back."

Cllr Bowles said it was increasingly difficult for councillors to deal with the workload, especially if they are juggling their responsibilities with a full time job.

He said: "Some of the workload of the deputy cabinet



LEADER: Cllr Andrew Bowles

members has grown to a level that we could not have anticipated. The change to the cabinet scrutiny system means some councillors are almost working a full time post."

The leader said the introduction of the Government's new Localism Bill would mean greater pressures on councillors, although he welcomed it as an opportunity for people to get involved in local government to make a difference.

He said: "There will be an expectation of all councillors acting to a far greater degree

as community leaders and champions. This will mean the workload on all councillors will increase, particularly in their own community."

"I welcome Localism because it will give councillors greater freedom from central government control and that may help more high calibre people to put their names forward to get involved. We need to say to people who might be thinking about being a councillor that you can really make a difference under the new Localism policy."

Cabinet portfolio holders are now: Andrew Bowles (leader), Gerry Lewin (deputy leader and planning), Duncan Dewar-Whalley (finance), John Wright (regeneration and economy), David Simmons (environment), Mike Cosgrove (localism), Derek Conway (housing), Ted Wilcox (performance), Lesley Ingham (health) and John Morris (communities).

Cabinet leader members: Lloyd Bowen (planning), Colin Prescott (regeneration), Nick Hampshire (environment) and June Garrad (green issues).

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SCIENCE

Could this invention, grown on our park, spell an end to world hunger?

By Chris Murphy

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

CREATING a solution to world hunger is the Holy Grail for all scientists.

But a team on our doorstep has revealed a breakthrough which has the potential to do just that with a system of planting crops and turning them from seed into food within just seven days.

Solar Grow 1 (SG1) is a revolutionary germination and seedling development system created by multi-award winning scientist, Alexander K Bushell. What's more, growers can quickly learn how to grow crops using the system.

Mr Bushell's company, Boundless Horizons, operates from its base at the Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne.

Now the remarkable invention has been awarded one of the top prizes at the British Invention Show held at London's Old Spitalfields Market, winning British and World Invention of the Year prize.

The team behind the project said it can deal with almost any type of seeded crop and was specifically developed for use in humanitarian and disaster areas because of the speed in which it can turn seeds into food.

Mr Bushell said the award will "help to raise the profile of this important technology".

He explained: "The SG1 system can also be used for famine relief in parts of the world that have been struck by natural disasters or areas where historically it has been difficult to cultivate crops.

"The beauty of SG1 is that it is fully self-contained and is so



easy to use that even someone with only a passing knowledge of agriculture can be trained in its use within hours."

The seeding system can run 24/7 so operators can constantly produce rotating crops.

Mr Bushell said it can realistically grow 100,000 tomato plant seedlings in just one week. Since it can grow a wide variety of plants its test lab can also help farmers to diversify crops, which reduces expensive food transportation costs.

All equipment is reusable, drastically reducing waste.

The aim is for SG1 to get directly onto a site, analyse the soil and localised water options and then to begin crop repopulation immediately: once on site, SG1 can be up and running within two hours.

It fits compactly into a standard shipping container and is fully habitable, including a toilet, shower and detachable tent. It contains all necessary horticultural equipment imaginable, meets all EU Health and Safety guidelines and can be

sited anywhere as it runs on solar power.

The scientist said it uses whatever type of water supply is available locally and comes with "plug and go" deep well pumps, a modular rain collection system and can even work with seawater. Once operational, SG1 works with 94 per cent water efficiency.

In addition to the humanitarian side, SG1 has a number of potential commercial applications. Not least of these is the logistic advantage it can offer the military as it can be set up fast in almost any type of location in order to ensure that deployed military units can become rapidly self-sufficient with non-meat food needs.

Whilst the final cost of each unit has yet to be fully calculated, it is anticipated that each unit will cost under £30,000.

James Speck, site director at the Science Park, added: "We are thrilled Alex won this award. He is no stranger to success, having won numerous awards in the past includ-

ing an Innovation Award for the Hospital in a Box which he created in 2005.

"We have always encouraged and supported Alex and hope that this new, potentially world-changing invention, receives the success and exposure that it deserves, for the benefit of everyone."

GROWING SUCCESS:

Alexander K Bushell at work inside Solar Grow 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Tribute to councillor

MP GORDON Henderson has paid tribute to Kemsley councillor Brenda Simpson who passed away last month.

He described her as a "perfect ward councillor who, despite being a staunch Conservative, always put the interests of her Kemsley community before party politics".

He added: "She was honest, hard-working and a thoroughly nice person. She will be missed by friend and political foe alike."

➔ Jet skier is rescued

A JET skier had to be treated for hypothermia after being rescued by Sheerness lifeboat crews.

The watersports enthusiast was picked up by the lifeboat team after falling from his bike and being unable to climb back onboard, about a quarter of a mile off Allhallows Yacht Club on the Isle of Grain.

He was picked up "very cold and hypothermic" and immediately taken to shore.

He was then taken by ambulance to hospital.

➔ Duo set to face court

TWO men will appear before magistrates later this month after being charged with a car crime.

Jake Toolie Boswell, 24, of Benstead Grove, Faversham, and Ashley Mario De Luca, 24, of Ivory Close, Faversham, have both been charged with theft from a motor vehicle. It comes following an incident in Teynham.

The duo have been bailed and will appear in court on Friday, January 20.

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CRIME

Take care of your card as skimming devices are found on cash machines

POLICE have issued a warning for people to be alert to a cash machine can after two incidents in the Sittingbourne area.

Two reports of bank card 'skimming devices' being attached to cash machines were reported at the end of last month, prompting officers to warn users to be on their guard.

The skimming devices are attached to the front of cash machines and are designed to dupe users into thinking they are part of the ATM.

But when cards are put in, the details are captured – along with the person's PIN. Then crooks use the data to pinch money out of unsuspecting victims' bank accounts.

Police say they received two reports of suspicious devices on two separate cash

machines on Thursday, December 22.

On the second occasion, a very basic device was retrieved from the machine.

Inspector Phil Hibben from the Swale neighbourhood policing team said: "I would encourage anyone who sees a suspicious device on a cash machine to notify the bank and to contact us immediately.

"In both cases, members of the public spotted these devices and immediately made us aware and I applaud their vigilance.

"It's certainly not a regular occurrence to find such devices but if users notice anything at all suspicious on a cash machine then it is best not to use the machine and to alert us or the machine owner to your concerns."

ART

Chance reunion is good karma for artist

By Chris Murphy

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

A VETERAN of the Falklands War said his art helped him fight his battlefield demons, and now via a coincidence of miraculous proportions, it is helping him find work in Sittingbourne too – by decorating a nightclub.

Glenn Fitzpatrick has been battling severe health problems and recently even needed vital brain surgery.

But his impressive artwork has helped him bounce back and he's now hoping to give the Life club in the High Street a new look.

He said: "I went to university after leaving the military to somehow get my life back on track and even wrote a book.

"My art is a great comfort to me, but now I hope to be making a living out of it thanks to a miraculous meeting of an old school friend, nightclub owner Kevin Pearton.

"I had an art show in Gravesend last year and walked in to town for a bite of lunch. I found myself standing outside an old abandoned nightclub, just looking at it.

"I had not seen Kevin for 20 years, and he just walked up to me. We recognised each other and talked about what we had done and were doing now. I asked if it was his club, he said yes and said it was going to be called Karma.

"I was stunned when he asked me to do all the internal artwork, which I did over 18 months.

"I am delighted with the way it turned out, and the club seems very successful.

"Now Kevin wants me to do the art at his club in Sittingbourne. It's called Life and opened about five years ago. I just can't believe it. Hopefully that will happen some time this year.

"Talk about karma giving you a chance to get your life back on track. I am still completely amazed at how this happened.

"The work at Life is not guaranteed yet, but I shall be working on new pieces of artwork for the club and hope they will all be used. It is a great opportunity for me."

Fitzy, as he is known to his friends, is putting on a spectacular show of his surreal artwork at a show called Karma Culture in Gravesend later this month.

He said: "Karma is a night club unlike any other in design. It began with a concept combining, art, ergonomics and coincidence.

"I hope to repeat the success in Sittingbourne when that refit finally gets under way. I can't wait. This is an exciting time in my life."

He added: "I have used my art to seek some sort of salvation through it and I think I am now seeing the benefit of all the hard work.

"Kevin didn't know about my time in the army or as an artist and I didn't know he was a successful club owner in Sittingbourne



KARMA CULTURE: Ex-soldier Glenn Fitzpatrick has been asked to decorate the inside of Life nightclub, pictured are his designs from another establishment



6699

My art is a great comfort to me and now I hope to be making a living out of it thanks to a miraculous meeting with an old school friend

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ENVIRONMENT

Funding green light for pioneering project to start in Rushenden

By Marijke Cox

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

A GROUNDBREAKING project aimed at reducing Swale's carbon footprint while saving residents thousands of pounds has been agreed funding through a government-led scheme.

The Rushenden Retrofit Programme, which looks to achieve a minimum of 40 per cent carbon savings to private and social homes, will be the first of its kind in the country.

It provides homes with a range of energy improvements such as insulation and new boilers.

The project is being rolled out by a number of partners including Swale Borough Council, AmicusHorizon Housing Association and Climate Energy, an agency which agreed funding through the Government's Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP).

The minimum CESP funding is £270,000 based on the amount of carbon savings made.

The Rushenden Retrofit Scheme is hoped to deliver high cost savings for residents and reduce carbon emissions.

Swale council is directly responsible for phase one, which will deliver initial retrofit measures

to more than 60 private homes, including specialist insulation, draft proofing and photovoltaic panels, which is a solar electricity system.

Funding from Climate Energy has secured the roll-out of phase one, with the council's contractor Lawtech installing the external wall insulation and replacement glazing and Swale Heating installing new boilers and other energy saving measures.

If successful, the scheme could be carried out over a wider area.

Swale Borough Council cabinet member for economy and regeneration John Wright said the authority was delighted to be in a position to show the progress that was being made.

"It is a real fillip for Swale to have the opportunity to make this project work here first," he said.

"It is a clear indication of our commitment to working in partnership with colleagues from the public and private sector, to create a cleaner and greener Swale, and to apply these key principles to all of the council's services."

The project currently focuses on development in Rushenden and applies a green approach to housing regeneration, aiming to achieve carbon savings and lower fuel bills for households in one

**GUINEA PIG:**

It is hoped the Rushenden programme will achieve 40 per cent carbon savings

of the most deprived areas of Swale.

The Homes and Communities Agency and Institute for Sustainability are also involved in the scheme.

It is anticipated phase one will be completed in March 2012.

■ For all the latest news and views see www.yourswale.co.uk.

EMERGENCY

Threat to leap off isle bridge

POLICE managed to talk down a man threatening to hurl himself off the Sheppey Crossing in the early hours of New Year's Day.

Crews were called out at around 4.26am after a "vulnerable person" appeared on the bridge.

Sheerness Inshore Lifeboat crew attended the scene but were stood down when the man left with police.

FIRE

Two homes hit by blaze

A CARELESSLY discarded cigarette is being blamed after a fire was sparked at a home on Sheppey on Christmas Day - and spread to a neighbouring house.

The blaze broke out outside a house in North Road, Queenborough at around 7.30pm. It spread under the property and then to the home next door. No-one was injured during the incident.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Takeaway owner's failure to fix faulty machine ends up costing him a lot of dough

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE owner of La Pizzeria in East Street, Sittingbourne, has been hit with fines totalling £300 and ordered to pay costs of £200 for failing to get the site assessed for asbestos and for putting staff at danger with a machine.

Ali Celik, 46, had been told to get an asbestos assessment carried out during a routine health and safety inspection to his takeaway in June 2010, by officers from Swale Borough Council.

They also insisted a cut-out device on a spiral dough-mixing machine be repaired to prevent users of the machine coming into contact with the moving parts.

The following day the machine was fixed, but no action taken with regard the asbestos checks.

An improvement notice was served requiring the defendant to carry out an assessment by February 7, 2011. A month later still nothing had been done. And by June 20, the cut-out device was not working again and the asbestos assessment still not carried out.

Mr Celik was served with a prohibition notice – preventing the use of the dough-mixing machine until the interlock to the guard had been repaired or replaced and it works properly.

In July, neither had been fixed so council chiefs prosecuted.

Mr Celik was fined £150 for breaching the prohibition notice, £150 for failing to comply



FINED: La Pizzeria was visited by council officers

with an improvement notice and was ordered to pay £200 in costs.

Peter Lincoln, Swale Borough Council's commercial team manager, said: "While we always try to help and advise businesses to comply with their health and safety obligations, we sometimes reach a point where contraventions continued to occur and we have to take action if it is in the public interest to do so."

"Where public health is at risk we will prosecute if we need to and we hope that the attention afforded to recent cases will act as a deterrent and highlight the issues."

Mr Celik had pleaded guilty to the charges. No asbestos was found on the site.

UTILITIES

Water firm sees mains replacement go to plan

WORK to replace ageing water mains to reduce the risk of leaks across the county is making good progress in Swale.

Old iron mains pipes – many of which were laid in the 1930s – have been replaced with stronger plastic pipes in Sheerness and Sittingbourne by Southern Water.

This will reduce the risk of burst pipes, leaks and interruptions to customers' supplies.

In November last year, Southern Water came under fire for failing to deliver its planned reduction in leakage for 2010/11, with some 96 million litres of water lost from Kent's pipes

every day. Ofwat demanded the firm return £5 million to customers – amounting to £5 off every customer's bill – for failing to deliver its planned reduction in leakage for the year.

Southern Water blamed the cold weather and stressed it had invested £40m in a leak reduction programme.

Work will continue through 2012, with projects already planned in areas including Hartlip Road in Sittingbourne.

It forms part of a larger scheme to replace 75km of water mains across the south east before April 2012 – and 256 before 2015.

CRIME

Playground waste lands builder with fine

A BUILDER whose rubbish ended up by the side of a road in Bysingwood has been fined £200.

Sean Burgess, 44, told Maidstone magistrates that the waste had ended up there after two men took it from his broken down van.

The court heard that in June 2011, waste was found between Bysingwood Road and Tin Shop Hill. Investigations identified the rubbish – soft playground surfacing, boxes and a builder's bag – as likely to belong to Burgess, of Batteries Lane, Lynsted.

Interviewed under caution he said he had been approached by two men who offered to take the waste from him for £50.

Mr Burgess admitted he was aware such disposal of controlled waste required a waste management licence and admitted he had not made sufficient enquiries to that effect. As he could not tell officers who dumped the waste, or who he gave it to, he was prosecuted. He was fined £200 and £150 in costs under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

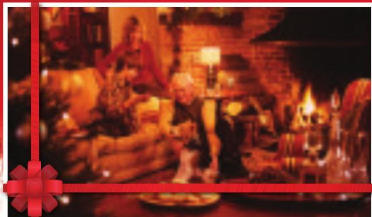
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WHAT YOU THINK

Maidstone residents tell us why they think the county town is such a great place to live and work.

■ Joan Morris, 59, a finance manager, said: "The town has easy access routes to the Channel Tunnel and London, it's got a very communal warming feel, with great shopping."

■ Becky Patten, 25, an estate agent, said: "Maidstone has easy public travel services, like the buses and trains, and house prices are very reasonable for the area. It boasts a very vibrant nightlife and places to eat, it's also steeped with history and is within walking distance of the countryside."



■ Norman and Gemma Nesbitt, aged 37 and 30, said: "We moved here from Croydon and have never looked back, it's a lovely area with easy access to the seaside and countryside."

"When we were looking at house prices to move here, we found very good value properties were available. The town centre itself is very nicely laid out with more independent shops rather than main retail chain stores."

■ Ray Eves, a retired power station worker, said: "It's quietly paced and located with almost everything on hand. Entertainment for all ages is available, with theatres and the nightlife and still holds three working men's clubs."



■ Annette Playdell, 50, a civil servant, said: "I'm surprised by its rating, but it has a nice family feel to the place, as you can see there are no burger stalls here kicking out that revolting smell. The nightlife leaves a bit to be desired but the daytime shopping of nice branded shops is very pleasing."

■ Mrs Hemmens, 48, a housewife of, Walderslade, said: "Maidstone has great surrounding village life, and seems to be a very desirable place to live. Its parks and historic feel all add to the atmosphere that embraces it as a borough of positivity."

■ Mr and Mrs Barron of Bluebell Hill, said: "We'd rather come to Maidstone than go to Chatham, simply because of its lovely selection of shops, all in walkable distance. It's attractively laid out and has a feelgood factor about itself and so do the people. There is also very little begging/Big Issue sellers, which can be off-putting, as in some of the surrounding towns."

COMMUNITY

County town in top 10 of best places to live

By Rob Colman

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MAIDSTONE has been named as the eighth best place to live in the UK.

The annual top-50 study carried out by the Halifax also included Tunbridge Wells at 12th, Ashford (27), Sevenoaks (38), Tonbridge and Malling (46), and Gravesham (49).

Maidstone Borough Council leader Cllr Chris Garland said: "We already knew our borough was a desirable place but it is great to have it confirmed by an independent survey."

"It will help to sell the county town as a great place for business. Economic prosperity is our number one priority and we scored particularly well for our employment rate, 84 per cent – the best in the UK."

"In 2012 our economy will be further boosted by the High Street regeneration project which could create up to 100 new jobs and bring more than



Picture: PAUL JERRETT

HOME: Maidstone town centre

£4 million of new spending to the town.

"Work will start on the Kent Institute of Medicine and Surgery at Bearsted Road, which could create up to 600 new

jobs, with an average salary of £40,000, when it opens in 2013."

Towns were ranked on a number of factors, including weekly average earnings; home size; number of vacant properties; broadband access; house prices; traffic flows; crime rates; health; exam results; and the weather.

Maidstone is home to around 7,000 businesses, and has a target to build 11,000 new homes over the next 20 years.

The council's cabinet member for economic development and transport, Cllr Malcolm Greer said: "This is good news and confirms what many residents will know already, Maidstone is a very desirable location to live."

"But the council will not be complacent and our top priorities for the borough will remain economic prosperity and quality of life."

■ For all the latest news see www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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CHARITY

Spread the warmth by donating your old coat

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

PEOPLE in Sittingbourne and Sheppey are being asked to donate a coat to the elderly.

The call comes from Age UK – the organisation which supports pensioners and is an amalgamation of Help the Aged and Age Concern.

Last year over 24,000 people aged over 65 across the UK died unnecessarily during the winter and the charity hopes the campaign will help reduce the number this winter.

The coats will either go to an elderly person or be sold or auctioned by Age UK to raise money for the campaign.

Local MP Gordon Henderson popped in to Sittingbourne Age UK to donate an unwanted coat himself.

Tina Booth, chief officer of Age UK Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "Donating a coat is a small gesture that will make a difference this winter. If you've got a new coat this



EASY TO

GIVE: MP Gordon Henderson wants us to follow his lead by donating unwanted coats to Age UK to help keep our elderly people warm this winter

Christmas, give an elderly person a belated Christmas present by taking your unwanted coat along to Age UK."

The charity hopes to spread the word on how older people can stay warm when out and about and at home this winter.

Measures such as wearing layers, eating regular healthy meals, closing doors and curtains to keep the cold draughts out are just some of the things to help to keep people warm.

The charity is urging residents to spread the warmth by making sure older relatives and friends know about the simple things they can do.

Older people and their families can visit Age UK in Sittingbourne or Sheppey today to pick up their free copy of Winter Wrapped Up. Alternatively, call Age UK for free on 0800 169 65 65 to order a copy or download the guide at www.spreadthewarmth.org.uk.

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News

CRIME

Kent Police's 45 officers who have felt long arm of the law

By Rob Colman

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SOME 45 serving police officers and community support officers at Kent Police have been in trouble with the law, the second highest number at any force across the country.

The figures were released following a Freedom of Information (FoI) request. Across the UK 900 serving officers have criminal convictions.

One Kent Police officer was convicted of perverting the course of justice in 1998.

Kent Police Federation chairman Ian Pointon said: "I describe these figures as very judgmental. The difficulty with FoI requests is that it reads very black and white. I personally think these are very crude figures and the full information needs to be looked at rather than an overview.

"If you take offences such as speeding, do you really think an officer should lose his job for doing 35mph in a 30 speed limit area, where as an officer convicted of a domestic violence issue, he would be told he is not eligible for being an officer. So in hindsight if you take the speeders out of the equation, what are you left with?

"I don't know the full details of this information, but I can say Kent Police take a serious view of the criminal convictions that officers have, and uses the national standard recruitment vetting procedure as do the other forces involved."

The Home Office issued guidelines in 2003, saying that police officers should have "proven

integrity" because they are vulnerable to pressure from criminals to reveal information.

Kent Police have to save £50m due to a cut in Home Office funding, which is expected to lead to a loss of about 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

Kent Police said that from 1993, 45 Kent Police officers who are still employed, have been arrested, charged or convicted of offences. All were disciplined by Kent Police.

Of these, 17 of these were for speeding, 11 for driving without due care, five for careless driving, five for drink driving, two for failing to stop, one for using a mobile phone while driving, and one for driving with expired insurance.

Of the three remaining officers, one was arrested for common assault and following court proceedings where they were given a conditional discharge, was reprimanded by the force.

The second officer was arrested for perverting the course of justice. This officer was bound over for two years by the court and reprimanded by the force. The officer had made a false entry in a notebook, and then corrected it to an accurate version of events.

The third officer was arrested for a public order offence, fined £100 by the court and fined by the force.

Assistant Chief Constable, Andy Adams, said: "Any offences committed by officers or staff are investigated in the same way as anyone else. We expect high standards from everyone representing the force and anyone falling short will be subject to scrutiny and dealt with by the courts where appropriate."

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News

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NOW the Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, January can seem a rather dismal month, with not much to look forward to. But for fans of all things French, a great day out is just round the corner.

The France Show – Britain's largest French exhibition – takes place at London's Earl's Court from January 13-15 and will celebrate all that is best about France, from great food and wine to holidays for all tastes and budgets.

The Flavours of France Theatre will feature top French chefs demonstrating how to cook their signature dishes, while authors such as Stephen Clarke and Carol Drinkwater will read extracts from their best-selling novels.

Cancan dancers will be back to entertain with their high kicks and flamboyant costumes, and Nick Trend, travel editor at The Telegraph, will be giving his top travel tips.

London's oldest French restaurant, Mon Plaisir, will be back, with their own at-show



brasserie, offering a special three-course lunch in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

The wine seminars are always popular and they won't disappoint this year, with wine-tastings and advice from experts such as Susy Atkins, the award-winning wine writer and broadcaster. Don't miss the champagne bar either.

If you're ready to plan your holidays, there will be plenty of travel operators and tourist boards to help you make the best choices for the family. You could even book a language course to ensure you make the most of your trips to France.

For anyone whose New Year's resolution is to buy a property across the Channel, the French Property Exhibition is a great place to start, with

estate agents, property finders, solicitors, financial advisors and removals experts on hand.

The free seminars advising on everything from the legal side of buying to making a new life in France are very popular so make sure you get your tickets in plenty of time.

Meanwhile, the market will provide plenty to tempt – why not buy some bread, cheese, saucisson and patisserie to take home and make the French experience last a little longer?

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CRIME

Fresh murder probe into '91 double killing

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

POLICE have renewed an appeal for information about two murders committed more than 20 years ago.

The Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate's cold case team is probing the death of Brenda Long, 42, who was discovered in her bath in Whitstable.

Police believe her killer drugged the woman to sleep before drowning her.

Nine months earlier, her partner Alan Leppard, 43, had been gunned down outside the couple's home in Monkton Street, Monkton.

No-one has ever been charged with the murders, and although police cannot say definitely the two crimes are connected, they have not ruled out a link.

Dave Stevens, from the cold case review team, said: "Although a fresh appeal for information is being made on the 20th anniversary of the death of Brenda Long, we can't speak of Brenda's murder without considering the murder of her partner Alan Leppard.

"On Easter Monday, April 1, 1991, Mr Leppard was shot in the chest with a 12 bore shotgun outside the couple's home.

"There was speculation at the time that this could have been a contract-style killing, but there is nothing to suggest that either Alan or Brenda had any involvement with criminality."

On December 28, 1991, Brenda Long was found at her Whitstable flat having last been seen alive by her sister on Christmas Day.

Mr Stevens said: "Following Mr Leppard's murder, Brenda Long moved to a flat in Cromwell Road. She was last seen alive by her sister on Christmas Day, 1991. Her sister spoke to her on the phone on Boxing Day and her body was found in the bath on December 28.

"Initially her death looked like suicide, but a post mortem examination established she had diethyl ether in her bloodstream and marks around her face and mouth, which suggested that she had been put to sleep and then drowned.

"Twenty years on we are still no closer to establishing a motive for either murder."

At the time of Mr Leppard's murder, witnesses reported seeing a white large Cadillac-style American car in Monkton.

Three weeks before the murder, two men were seen in the nearby White Stag pub asking about Mr Leppard. Police released e-fits of the men at the time and the murder was featured on TV's Crimewatch, the reconstruction prompting 950 calls from members of the public.

As part of the cold case review the team has spoken to Nick Biddiss, a retired detective superintendent with Kent Police, who was the senior investigating officer for both murders.

Mr Biddiss said: "In the nine months after Alan's death I regularly updated Brenda on the enquiry. She was affable and there wasn't an evil bone in her body. We had no reason to believe either she or Alan were involved in any criminality whatsoever - they were just tragic victims."

Heading the cold case investigation into both murders is Det Insp Ian Rogerson from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.

He said: "The advances in technology around DNA mean we can review opportunities that were not available to detectives 20 years ago."

Anyone with information about either murder can call 01634 884044 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

■ For all the very latest news and sport headlines go to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

SPORT

MP wants action on claims made against Fifa president Sepp Blatter

TORY MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins has renewed his calls for an independent investigation into Fifa president Sepp Blatter's conduct following fresh bribery allegations.

Former Fifa senior vice-president Jack Warner claims Blatter awarded him World Cup television rights

for \$1 in return for helping Blatter win Fifa presidency elections.

Mr Collins, who sits on the culture, media and sport select committee, recently formed a global grouping of politicians to push for reform within the football body.

He made a fresh appeal for an investigation into Blatter's conduct.

RELIGION

Society letting down young people, claims Archbishop of Canterbury

ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has argued that Britain must embrace its young people to avoid a repeat of the riots which marred 2011.

He said society had "let down so many young people" and we need to change our approach to prevent them feeling further isolation.

Dr Williams said: "We have to ask, what kind of society is it that lets down so many of its young people?"

"That doesn't provide enough good role models and drives youngsters further into unhappiness and anxiety by only showing them suspicion and negativity?"

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KOS CAMPAIGN

Winter fuel campaign raises £10,000 for elderly

By Marijke Cox

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ISOLATED elderly people in a Kent coastal town have been thrown a life-line by the Archant KOS Media-backed Surviving Winter appeal.

Herne Bay Age UK was given £2,650 made up of generous donations from some of the county's pensioners, who donated their winter fuel payment to those in need.

The funds will support the charity's Two's Company Service, which helps prevent loneliness and isolation through a home visiting service.

Around £1,000 of the cash will go

into an emergency pot to help support eight people in the area with problems such as broken heaters.

Chief executive officer of Herne Bay Age UK, Sue Cliff, said she was extremely grateful for the generosity of Kent's pensioners.

"Thank you very much to all those people who donated their winter fuel payment," she said. "Other people really do need it. We've had people volunteer in the past to give their payment after realising themselves they don't need it. The Surviving Winter appeal has highlighted this."

The campaign, run by Kent Community Foundation (KCF), invites well-off

households to donate some or all of their £200 winter fuel payment to poorer elderly or vulnerable people.

The payment is given tax-free by the Government to every house with a person aged 60 or over.

So far, the appeal has raised almost £10,000 since November.

It looks to help reduce fuel poverty – when a household spends more than 10 per cent of its income on gas or electricity bills – which has become a growing problem with some 39,000 pensioners suffering across Kent and Medway.

Herne Bay Age UK's chief Ms Cliff said schemes such as the Two's Com-



ALONE: The cash helps the vulnerable

pany Service helps those struggling with fuel poverty to avoid isolation while also helping them access help.

"Our befriending service provides regular support to older people who

request it in order to alleviate loneliness and isolation," she said.

"Elderly people may be concerned about keeping the heating on because of the cost of bills and so instead they stay in a room, wrapped up, which can cause loneliness."

"We have volunteers, but some of the funding from the Surviving Winter appeal will pay for our paid staff."

"It will mean being able to access more individuals. It keeps them in touch with what's going on and we can help them access any further support or information they might need."

Donations can be made at www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html.

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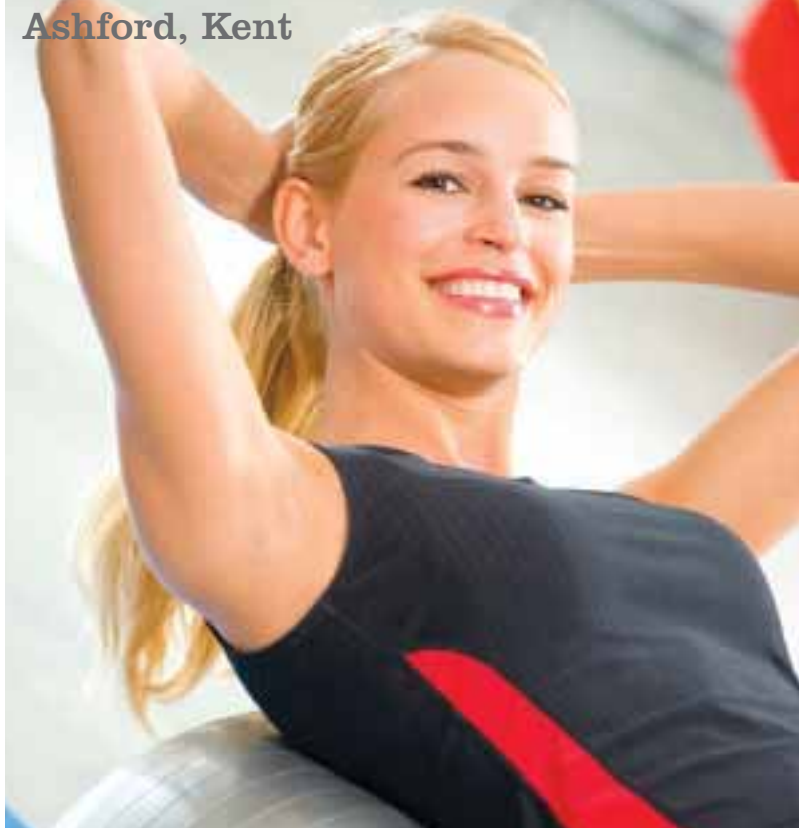
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DRY DOCK: HMS Gannet, now at Chatham, was designed specifically to fight the notorious slave trade

Why part of anti-slavery ship is on Obama's desk

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AMONG the many proud achievements in its history, the Royal Navy can point to its key role in ending the notorious trans-Atlantic slave trade.

It is estimated that between the 16th and 19th centuries around 12 million Africans were forcibly seized and crammed into sailing vessels taking them to a life of misery, working in mines and on plantations.

Around two million are believed to have died during the crossing and their bodies thrown overboard in a business referred to by Africans as the "maafa" – Swahili for "great disaster".

In 1807, Britain voted to outlaw the trade and it largely died out by the 1860s.

During that time British warships seized around 1,600 vessels and freed approximately 150,000 Africans. But the trade continued in many other parts of the world and so did the struggle against it.

The Mediterranean and the Red Sea were key areas with Arab slavers preying on East Africans and among the ships policing it was the 1,130-tonne sloop HMS Gannet, equipped with two seven-inch guns, four 64lb guns, and four machine guns.

Built and launched at Sheerness Royal Dockyard, HMS Gannet is currently open to the public at Chatham Historic Dockyard, following a £3 million restoration.

Visitors to the ship can take part in a dramatic audio tour which gives them a sense of what it was like to take part in



TOP SEAT: President Obama sitting behind the Resolute Desk

a dangerous anti-slavery mission in 1887.

It takes them back to the dangerous waters of the Red Sea, which runs from the tip of the Sinai Peninsula past the coasts of present-day Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Eritrea and out into the Indian Ocean.

After a Royal Navy officer is fatally wounded in a skirmish the sloop is sent to capture those involved, with tour including details of the encounter as well as a look at what life was like for the sailors on board.

HMS Gannet was specifically designed for trade protection and surveying work, as well as anti-slavery operations.

The ship cost just over £50,000 to construct and was officially designated as a Doterel-class screw sloop when launched off the coast of Shepperton on August 31, 1878.

It also was in action in 1888, engaging anti Anglo-Egyptian forces in Sudan where Osman Digna, a general famous for his

impressive beard, was besieging the port of Suakin in the name of fundamentalist Islam.

After the battle HMS Gannet was transferred to harbour duties at Chatham before being leased to the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company, where it was moored off the Isle of Grain and used to accommodate workers.

A spell as a training ship followed and the cricketer and philanthropist CB Fry – who was once offered the throne of Albania – used it as a dormitory for disadvantaged boys training for a career in the Royal Navy.

The school only closed in 1968 and HMS Gannet's fate was uncertain until restoration work started. Ownership passed from the Maritime Trust to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust where it now forms part of the National Historic Fleet.

And in 2009, the ship's role in anti-slavery operations was impressively recognised when Prime Minister Gordon Brown made his first visit to President Barack Obama in the White House and presented him with a wooden pen holder made from its timbers. The gift accompanied an earlier piece of presidential history.

One of Gannet's sister ships, HMS Resolute, provided the wood for a desk presented by Queen Victoria to President Rutherford B Hayes in 1880.

Many presidents since Hayes used the 'Resolute Desk' at various locations in the White House, but it was Jackie Kennedy who first brought the desk into the Oval Office in 1961 for President John F Kennedy.

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OPINION

Green Belt must be saved

Immigration and not a lack of development sites is at root of housing shortage, believes South East MEP and Ukip leader Nigel Farage

THE purpose of Green Belt in planning policy is to protect natural environments, improve air quality and protect the unique character of rural communities which could otherwise become an extension of an existing suburb.

They also provide the opportunity for those living in urban or suburban areas to have access to the countryside and all the benefits that come with it.

The prospect of a life without areas for children to play in, summer picnics, and areas for sports, is a dire one indeed.

This is why, when I was contacted by a Kent organisation called Save Green Sites which is attempting to persuade the local council not to allocate Green Belt land and green field sites identified within the borough for potential future development, I was keen to assist it with its aims.

Sadly, Gravesham Borough

Council's future planning strategy proposes to earmark land for nearly 1,000 homes on land protected by Green Belt. This is despite many brownfield sites being available for the required building of houses. Consequently 15 areas in villages have been identified for building projects. These are 15 areas which should not be touched by developers and their diggers.

Only a few weeks ago I wrote about the disastrous planning proposals of the Coalition government, headed by Greg Clark MP who, as you may recall, has a view from his home that is protected by law.

The Coalition's plans were to slash the number of planning regulations from thousands of pages to just 52.

Since then a group of MPs has slammed the policy, claiming it lacks clarity and puts more emphasis on economic growth than environment and

society: the things which Green Belt was designed to protect.

Of course, we cannot look at planning laws without looking for the reason behind this apparent need to build so many new houses.

One doesn't need to look far beyond net migration into this country and the huge waiting lists faced by local councils to house residents to see that there are problems. But these problems are not there just because of a lack of available housing: the MPs' report came as new findings from mortgage lenders Halifax showed the number of empty homes in England has jumped to 662,105.

Altering planning laws and digging up parks and fields will just be papering over the cracks of the problems we face.

The next stage of the process is the council's cabinet meeting in March where the target figure of dwellings to be built over



6699

Digging up parks will be papering over the cracks of our problems

the next 20 years is expected to be agreed.

The campaigners are joined by the Campaign to Protect Rural England who say that residents at Higham, Istead Rise, Meopham and Culverstone are angry that the council is looking to promote development in the Green Belt.

I urge those people who wish to protect Kent's green belt land to contact their representatives on Gravesham Borough Council and let them know the land is protected for a reason.

The Green Belt issue does not just apply to Gravesham but is a concern shared nationwide. But just as charity starts at home, we can all make a difference if we remind those making the decisions that they are elected to represent our views and need to listen to them accordingly.

■ **Nigel Farage lives in Westerham.**

KOS COMMENT

Farce of drug-driving laws must be tackled

THE current system of dealing with drug-driving is almost laughable.

It's illegal to take drugs, yes. But if you are caught driving under the influence of drugs, the police have to prove you are impaired to prosecute.

Common sense seems to have got lost along the way somewhere.

In the case of Lillian Groves, her family had to watch the man who killed their daughter – and who been smoking cannabis beforehand – get away with a short sentence because the police couldn't prove impairment.

What kind of message does this send out – that it's safe to take drugs and drive as long as you feel relatively normal? This needs to change before more lives are lost.

Well done to you all

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who received New Year's Honours. It's good to see Kent is home to so many talented, driven and commendable people.

And what a mix it was; from politicians to a restaurateur, to professors to an equine expert. Aside from the storms, it's been a good start to 2012.

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'Mugged' by KCC pay-offs

I HAVE just been made redundant from a private company after 25 years, and have just received the absolute maximum payout under the government scheme, which equates to £12,000.

Some might say that is not too bad, but how does this compare with the £400,000 expected pay-off by Kent County Council for Katherine Kerswell for less than 18 months' work?

Normal government redundancy payment requires a qualifying period of at least two years. Her predecessor who was also on a generous wage, received a similar spectacular pay-off.

It would seem that many hard-pressed ratepayers of Kent are being 'mugged', not by physical violence, but by 'secret' very lucrative deals done with our money, by councillors who are supposed

to be working for us.

These are not isolated cases as there have been quite a few generous pay awards and pay-offs on this council gravy train in recent times.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Distraction for all our senses

I'M writing this letter to all producers of TV programmes, films and documentaries.

I would like to know why we have to strain our senses to hear the dialogue above the so-called background noise they call music.

I was most surprised that it was the same when trying to listen to David Attenborough's *Frozen Planet*.

Will somebody please put a stop to this obnoxious procedure. I wonder what would happen if we all switched on a radio when meeting and talking in the street?

Documentaries, etc, made in the 60s were a pleasure to

listen to and watch now – I'm afraid I turn most modern day ones off!

I will be interested in your readers' comments on this.
John R O'Neon, Folkestone

Kite's flying in face of Games

I DON'T often feel the need to write to the Press but, after hearing the views of Dartford Borough Council leader Jeremy Kite on the Olympics at a recent council meeting, I felt compelled to speak out.

I asked Cllr Kite why he hadn't bothered to ensure that Dartford was included in the route for the Olympic torch.

His attitude concerned me. He complained about the cost of the security measures involved – even though that's not a factor for most neighbouring councils. Dartfordians, he said, will just have to travel elsewhere if they want to witness this historic event.

Cllr Kite made a curious

speech which left the strong impression that he resented the fact the UK was hosting the Olympics at all.

That negative stance was further confirmed after his deputy, Cllr Martin, complained to the BBC about traffic "gridlock" arising from the games. The Highways Agency, however, doesn't agree.

It's disappointing that Dartford's council leadership have failed to appreciate the significance of the torch procession. Dartford needs regeneration and bringing the torch to the town would help raise the town's profile.

Apart from the economic benefits to the UK, the vast majority of people are proud this historic event will make our country centre stage next summer. But not so, it seems, for Cllr Kite and his supporters who have proven themselves to be thoroughly out of touch and Scrooge-like over this issue.

Geoff Prout, Shadow Leader of Dartford Borough Council

Green policies stifle growth

STEVE Dawe's response to my previous opinion on the shale gas/fracking debate was rather predictable. A rehash of all the usual scares that I had in fact addressed and the arrogant dismissal of a differing viewpoint as "in error".

He does, however, lay bare the real 'Green' agenda by stating that energy policy is primarily about conservation, efficiency and massively reduced demand and usage – rather than new forms of power generation.

I could not disagree more. That may be Green policy, but I doubt many others would concur.

Of course, I don't blame Steve, or anybody else, for sticking behind their beliefs – for that is what green ideology really is, it claims scientific basis, but boils down to a belief.

I also won't knock any

reasonable effort to cut unnecessary wastage – nothing wrong with a bit of good housekeeping.

But I draw the line at the enforced lifestyle changes, reduced living standards and potential economic crippling of our country that full-scale adoption of their policies would bring about.

If this country is to undergo recovery and regain some sort of place in the world with an increased population and some revived manufacturing industry with the required infrastructure, putting our fuel and energy on 'short rations' is out of the question – we are going to using more, not less – possibly quite a lot more.

In a free society supply should be demand led – subject to availability. A 'green society' will not be a free society.

Without repeating myself, I would answer Steve that while some of his alternative energy sources just might improve enough to be of use eventually, in the immediate future they offer only not enough for too high a cost.

Shale gas represents a new form of an existing technology; it is plentiful, cheap, local and offers (with very low risk) a 'home-grown' supply of fuel for some time to come.

For the medium to longer term, for power generation, there is an improved form of nuclear generation – using thorium instead of uranium and plutonium. This proven technology produces far less radioactive waste than present methods, and is more difficult to produce bombs from – which is why it was not favoured when initially investigated back in the 40s.

If, in order to survive economically, we also have to burn some coal and oil for a bit longer, then so be it.

Which vision would you prefer? The green one: reduced and intermittent power with lower living standards, and consumption (not to mention travel opportunities) planned and controlled like something out of old Eastern Europe? Or the one I here propose: use of our own natural resources to bring about economic recovery – in five years we could be self-sufficient in energy again.

If we follow the American example fuel prices will come down (gas in the US already has, they have stopped importing and started exporting).

Ian Taylor, Dover

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Inheritance is nothing to declare for debtor

A FRIEND was declared bankrupt in September, 2009, and after one year he was discharged from bankruptcy with no restrictions. He is now to inherit from his father who died recently. Does he have to declare this inheritance to the Official Receiver, and is it likely that the receiver would have any interest in the money?

IF YOUR friend was discharged from bankruptcy without any restrictions that could be applied to his future finances, and with no claim from the Official Receiver, then the money he now inherits will be his with no strings attached. The fact that your friend's father died a year or more after the discharge from bankruptcy works in his favour. If the father had died before your friend was discharged, the Official Receiver could have made a claim.

OUR daughter has been living with her partner for the past four years and they have a one-year-old son. Her partner is divorced and says he has no wish to marry again, and our daughter has accepted this. However, we are concerned as to what would happen if he should die. They are living in a house which he owns and it is in his sole name. He says that if he does die, she will automatically get everything, including the house, but he has not made a will. Is this true, or would his ex-wife have a claim? He has told us that when they were divorced, they made a 'clean break' settlement, and there were no children.

YOUR daughter is in a very risky situation – though not for the reasons you think. If her partner did negotiate a clean break with his former wife, this should mean that she has no further claim against him, probably because he paid her an agreed lump sum at the time. It would be sensible for your daughter to double-check the divorce agreement with a solicitor, though, just in case her partner has not understood the clean break correctly. However, your daughter's biggest problem is not her partner's ex-wife. It is her own son. If her partner dies without leaving a will, then the first in line to inherit everything, including the house, is not her – it is the one-year-old child. When someone dies without a will, the intestacy laws set down a pecking order that decides who gets what. If the person who dies is unmarried, but has children, everything they leave must go into trust for the children until they reach the age of 18. If the house is being bought with a mortgage, could your daughter afford to take over the payments, assuming the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



mortgage lender allowed this? And even if she did, there would still be a messy division of the property's value when her son reaches 18. If he demanded his share at once, your daughter could be forced to sell her home. Your daughter could try to sidestep all this by going to court as soon as her partner died. She could apply for a court order granting her a share of his estate. But this can be expensive and there is no guarantee of success. Every case is judged on its merits. The real solution is for her partner to make a will now. There is nothing to stop him leaving as much as he likes to his son, but at least your daughter would know where she stands.

HAVE some National Savings index-linked certificates that mature soon. I asked at the Post Office, but apparently there are no index-linked certificates on sale at present. Is there anywhere else you would suggest I reinvest that will keep the inflation-proofing? The sum involved is about £4,000.

ALTHOUGH there are no new certificates on sale, you can still reinvest existing index-linked National Savings certificates and keep your money safe from inflation. Shortly before your certificates mature, you should be invited to switch into a special scheme for existing customers. You can leave your money invested and it will still grow in line with changes in the retail prices index. You will also get 0.5pc interest on top. All this is tax-free, just like your existing certificates. There are other index-linked schemes, but as they are not tax-free, your money will not really match inflation. Some profits will go to the taxman. An exception to this is the Inflation Linked 10 account from Yorkshire Building Society (0845 1200 100). This neatly combines index-linking with a tax-free Isa to get the best of both worlds. The minimum investment is £3,000 and the only possible snag is that this is a six-year scheme. Early withdrawal fees apply if you quit sooner.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Mortgage approvals rise as remortgage figures fall

THE number of approvals for new house purchases has risen to its highest point in nearly two years, but the picture is less bright in the remortgage market.

Bank of England figures show there were 52,854 approvals for home purchases in November, worth a total of £7.6 billion. It was the second consecutive monthly rise and the highest figure since December, 2009.

But the number of loans for remortgaging fell for the second month in a row, with 31,154 loans worth £4.1bn. That was the lowest number since last June.

"The material drop in the number of remortgages may reflect how, as the eurozone crisis escalated and the economy deteriorated in the late autumn, people became even more confident that interest rates are going nowhere for quite some time," said David Braithwaite, director of Citrus Financial Management.

"The fall in remortgage activity may also reflect declining equity levels in



KEY TO THE FUTURE: 2012 could be another hard year for those people wishing to get on the property ladder

the UK's housing stock as house prices continue to slide downwards."

He added: "Looking forward, 2012 will be about matching willing borrowers with reluctant lenders. At best, we'll be moving sideways.

"The problem is that borrowers are hesitant to borrow and lenders aren't overly keen to lend.

"People buy property when they're

confident, and confidence is disappearing at roughly the same rate as Christmas cheer.

"Credit conditions are likely to get tougher, too. The banks are ultra-wary about each other's exposure to sovereign debt and this growing wariness could rapidly translate into reduced mortgage availability and higher rates."

More people turning to easy credit to pay basic housing costs

By Adam Aiken

Editor MyMoney24

MORE than a million people across the south east of England are using expensive credit to meet their basic mortgage and rent repayments, in a stark illustration of the financial strain being felt by many households.

The findings by homelessness charity Shelter suggest that many people are in dire financial straits at the start of a year in which most forecasters agree the economic outlook will worsen.

The charity said more than 1.1 million people in the region used payday loans, unauthorised overdrafts, personal loans or credit cards to pay their basic housing costs last year, and it warned that 2012 could see an increase in people losing their homes.

Using expensive credit to pay the mortgage or rent is a warning sign that someone's finances are on the brink. It is an unsustainable situation

and signifies deep financial problems.

Payday loans, in particular, can lead to serious problems if they are used for this purpose. These loans – some of which charge interest of up to 4,000 per cent – are designed to tide someone over with a small amount for a few days, and should not be used to meet long-term fixed commitments such as housing costs.

"These shocking findings show the extent to which thousands of households across the south east of England are desperately struggling to keep their homes," said Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter.

"Turning to short-term payday loans to help pay for the cost of housing is totally unsustainable.

"It can quickly lead to debts snowballing out of control and can lead to eviction or repossession and ultimately homelessness."

He added: "Every two minutes, someone in Britain faces the nightmare of losing their home.

"We urge every single one of these

people now relying on credit to help pay their rent or mortgage to urgently seek advice."

Nationally, the figures are startling. The Shelter research suggests that nearly seven million people used credit to pay their mortgages and rent last year, with nearly a million of them using payday loans for this purpose at least once.

People who find themselves in such a situation should seek help from a charity such as Shelter or Citizens Advice immediately.

R3, the trade body for the insolvency industry, recently published research that suggested 3.5 million people were likely to take out payday loans over the next six months in a bid to help make ends meet.

"Having a financial buffer is crucial to weathering periods of difficulty," said an R3 spokesman.

"If struggling to payday becomes a regular occurrence, seeking financial advice should be a priority over short-term, high-interest credit."

Improved tax relief good news for investment in businesses

By Nick Ames

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THE announcement of a further improvement in the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), which encourages investment in businesses, is good news for companies looking to expand, according to one industry analyst.

Phil Beavan, of High Growth Kent, which promotes business initiatives, said it could help to function expansion plans and so boost the county's economy.

EIS is a scheme that uses a series of tax reliefs to encourage individuals to invest money in small businesses.

In April, the Government increased the amount of relief available to 30 per cent while also increasing the amount that can be invested under the scheme.

Chancellor George Osborne announced the news that a further improvement would now see the first £100,000 of investment receive 50 per cent relief.

Mr Beavan said: "EIS is very widely acknowledged as being one of the best schemes around for encouraging investment in smaller businesses. It has been around since 1994 and there is a very good reason for that.

"By increasing the tax relief to 50 per cent, it means that somebody investing, say, £35,000 in a qualifying business would immediately re-



EXPANSION PLANS: Many firms could benefit from the Enterprise scheme

ceive £15,000 in tax relief, and as EIS is a series of reliefs the maximum they could lose if the business fell over would now be less than £11,000.

"Couple that with the tax-free nature of gains under EIS and it is a very attractive proposition.

"At present, individuals can invest up to

£1 million per year and receive 30 per cent relief, but in my experience most investors are not looking to place anything like that amount.

"The reality is that this is a very, very high-risk game and any money that investors offer they have to be able to lose."

Beavan said the news could mean more cash coming the way of companies wanting to expand via the Investors Network, which backs business.

He said: "Kent Investors Network is the region's best-kept secret. It is a group of high-net-worth people that we work closely with and are based here in Kent.

"They are passionate about Kent business and, perhaps more importantly, have up to £6 million to invest in the right opportunities.

"They were ready to invest under the old scheme, so they will be more than ready to invest now that the scheme is even more attractive."

Declan Treanor, from Kent Investor Network, said: "We are still digesting the Chancellor's statement, but on the face of it we think it's positive in terms of how we are trying to help local businesses.

"Certainly, we are encouraging businesses to look to High Growth Kent in the first instance to help them establish if they are ready to speak seriously to us, and we want to get a message out to the region's businesses that we are here, we are looking for opportunities and we are in a position to provide finance."

GROWTH

Companies hit by skills shortage and red tape

A REPORT by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) says firms with more than 50 employees have ambitions to grow but are held back by a lack of skilled workers and burdensome regulation.

The BCC's latest Workforce Survey shows that 52 per cent of firms want to take on more employees before 2015, with only 8 per cent looking to reduce staff numbers.

With unemployment expected to peak at 2.77 million in 2012, business is expected to play its part in creating growth and jobs.

The research says, however, that ambitions held by larger firms to expand and grow their workforce are frustrated by a lack of skilled labour in the UK and red tape.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "This report matches very closely to the feedback I get from companies in Kent.

"There is a willingness and desire for expansion and job-creation which is frustrated by many aspects, especially red-tape regulations and a lack of skilled people seeking employment.

"The need for private-sector expansion to restore economic growth is paramount, and measures to facilitate that expansion are essential."

INITIATIVE

Bank's managers invest their time to understand what client needs

MEDWAY window and conservatory company Supaglazing benefited from two extra members of staff for the day when Barclays business manager Steve Edge, and Simon Nicholson, regional business director, worked at the company as part of a 'back to business' initiative.

Supaglazing is a family business established in 1981 and installs windows, doors and conservatories. The company, based in Strood, also has showrooms in Dartford and Sittingbourne.

Michael Booth, senior accounts manager, said: "We transferred our business account to Barclays after we were unhappy with our previous bank and I've been really impressed with Steve Edge, our business manager.

"He knows his stuff and is really on the ball. If I need to

get hold of him he always makes himself available.

"It is great Steve and his manager were willing to spend the day working with us. It was a good opportunity to discuss some ideas I have been toying with for the company."

Mr Edge said: "It was a great experience spending the day with Michael and his team.

This is an excellent, diverse business with ambitious plans and I am now in a better position to understand what the company needs to be able to succeed in this industry."

Mr Nicholson said: "The back-to-business initiative will see all 1,700 of our business managers spending the day working alongside our clients.

"Learning more about our customers enables us to provide the right levels of support and advice when required."

TRANSPORT

Coach service a capital idea for commuters

A NEW commuter service is to be launched linking west Kent with London.

Air-conditioned coaches run by Centaur Commute will soon be linking the area with a number of points in the capital.

Matthew Sims, managing director of Centaur Coaches & Minicoaches, which is running the service, said: "We've spent a lot of time listening to customers and finding out everything that is wrong with the London railways commute from the Tunbridge Wells area and have set to work to fix it.

"For example, we examined costs and are able to offer big savings to commuters of up to £1,000 a year and more.

"Unlike the trains, we have also incorporated many pick-up and drop-off points at key locations, which in many cases will mean passengers will not need to get on buses or Tubes upon arrival in the capital to reach their workplace."

The new route has also been designed to pass two free car parks close to Tonbridge before joining the A21.

Centaur's service officially takes to the road on Monday, January 30, but the company has announced a number of trial services throughout the month.

MEETINGS



Centre is now open for all your business meeting needs

BUSINESSES can now get access to a meeting space in Maidstone and at the same time do their bit to support the work of an important community facility.

The Maidstone Community Support Centre (MCSC) in Marsham Street can accommodate either small meetings or large gatherings of up to 150 people.

The facilities include eight meeting rooms, which are available on an hourly basis, seven days a week for meetings, training, away-days, seminars and conferences.

Each room comes complete with AV equipment, WiFi, laptop, multimedia projector, DVD, VCR and TV whiteboard and flip-charts, ensuring the all-in price is reasonable.

Photocopying, faxing, laminating up to A3 and brochure collation can also be supplied at an additional charge.

The Victorian building was adapted in 1988 to provide affordable office and meeting space for charitable and community groups, and it is also proving increasingly popular with companies from Maidstone and the surrounding area.

The centre is accessible to wheelchair-users with additional facilities and dedicated parking by prior arrangement.



FAR-REACHING: Kent Science Park is to head the British side of part two of the Channel Innovation Network's collaboration scheme

Science park leading the way in cross-Channel cooperation

By Nick Ames

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KENT Science Park in Sittingbourne is to lead the county in a multi-million-euro cross-Channel trade project that aims to bring English and French firms closer together.

The park will head Kent's UK side of the Channel Innovation Network's second phase (CHAIN 2), a project designed to enhance the collaborative work between companies in southern England and those in the regions of Normandy and Brittany.

This €2 million scheme builds on the previous CHAIN project and brings together 11 partners from Normandy, Brittany and southern England – including start-up business centres, science parks and innovation hubs.

CHAIN is one of only a small group of public/private-sector partnerships to

have successfully secured European Interreg funding.

Kent Science Park's first goal will be to expand the CHAIN database of Kent companies that are keen to do business with French organisations and may have been supported by business centres, technology clusters and science parks.

Most of these firms will work in the biotech and life-science industries, information and communication, marine industries, logistics and transport, materials engineering and advanced manufacturing sectors.

During the three-year project, which begins on April 1, 2012, Kent Science Park will also take a leading role in encouraging French companies to move to the English side of the Channel, increase trade, employment and training opportunities and improve communication links.

Richard Wheeler, head of business de-

velopment and regional liaison at Kent Science Park, said: "We are thrilled to be leading the Kent side of the CHAIN 2 project.

"This scheme will bring the county's private and public sectors together to promote Kent, something that is crucial in these tough economic times. I am sure that through working with Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and our CHAIN 2 partners we will be able to deliver growth and jobs across the county."

Alex King, deputy leader and international portfolio holder at Kent County Council, said: "We are delighted to take part in the CHAIN 2 project, which will benefit businesses across Kent and northern France.

"By increasing trade links and providing training and exhibition opportunities, CHAIN 2 can not only safeguard jobs in the region but create many more."

AWARD

Basepoint recognised for its space

THE Basepoint-operated business centre in Chatham, The Joiner's Shop, has won the prestigious Workspace Of The Year award for 2011 at the Business Centre Association (BCA) Awards.

Established some 10 years ago, the annual BCA Awards, this year held at London's Park Lane Hotel, include four categories: Business Centre Of The Year, Workspace Of The Year, Office Broker Of The Year and Trade Supplier Of The Year.

Nominations are sent to the judging panel for discussion and members decide on a winner and two runners-up.

The award is given to a business centre that has added value to its clients' business, rather than simply providing clean, well-managed work space.

Basepoint Chatham opened in March 2009 and focuses on the needs of small and start-up businesses specialising in the creative industries.

The centre is home to 44 thriving creative businesses, ranging from graphic designers to specialist printers and engravers.

John Luchford, centre manager at The Joiner's Shop, collected the award. He said: "As a newly-appointed centre manager, I was content with being short-listed along with two other Basepoint centres, Swindon and Newhaven.

"When the Chatham centre was announced as the winner, it was quite a shock and a huge honour. Winning is testament to all the effort we have put in to ensure that our licensees thrive within a positive environment.

"I believe in the opportunities and support Basepoint offers to SMEs and this award is something I will share with all of my colleagues as recognition of all of our hard work and determination."

Pay nothing once you've set up your own water supply

THE need in business to cut costs, together with concerns about the long-term reliability of mains water, is prompting an increasing number of companies to instal their own supplies.

Vossbrook Private Water Supplies has seen a steady rise in enquiries in recent months as companies look to secure the continuous water supply on which their businesses depend.

Founded by Deal-based Kingsdown Water, which sells more than five million bottles of natural mineral water a year throughout the UK, Vossbrook's aim is to make its experience and expertise in sourcing and drilling for water available to other businesses.

Up to 20,000 litres of water can be abstracted daily for free, without a licence or planning permission, providing big savings for heavy users.

Vossbrook senior partner William Bomer said: "A business using seven million litres a year – less than 20,000 a day – will be paying annual water rates of approximately £7,000, so an initial investment of around £14,000 pays for itself in two years and thereafter the water is free."

Vossbrook provides a complete source to tap service, from surveying the site to drilling the borehole and

installing the pipes, pump work and filtration equipment. By using a solar panel to power the pump, the whole process becomes carbon-neutral.

Bomer said: "This spring was the driest for over a century, with many regions facing drought conditions, so having an independent water supply not only makes economic sense, it also provides peace of mind.

"We have seen a surge in

interest from a broad spectrum of businesses – agricultural, golf clubs, private schools, the leisure industry and manufacturers whose production processes require high volumes of water.

"The number of enquiries from domestic users is also increasing. For the owners of properties with a swimming pool or extensive gardens and grounds, having their own secure water supply means



PARTNER: William Bomer

they no longer have to worry about hosepipe bans and other restrictions on mains water."

GForces expansion helps push the boundaries of opportunity

By Nick Ames

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AUTOMOTIVE digital-agency systems firm GForces, of Bearsted, has opened the doors on its expanded new office building.

It is designed to allow the web-management company to maintain its status as a fast-growing hi-tech employer, as well as facilitating an increase in the intake of Kent pupils and college students into its training academy.

Since the beginning of 2011, GForces has grown by a further 25 per cent, now employing 150 staff members. With the expansion of the building at the Caring Lane site, there is now space for up to 50 extra employees, while the training academy intake will now double in number compared with 2011.

The established Caring Lane office space borrowed the names of pilots who flew over Kent in the Second World War, and the new meeting rooms' names continue the military theme.

These names include Churchill, Dowding (after Hugh Dowding of Fighter Command), Stirling (after Sir Archibald Stirling, founder of the SAS), Gibson (after Guy Gibson of Bomber Command and the Dam-busters) and Montgomery (after Field Marshall Montgomery).

Opening the building was a distinguished guest of honour who flew operationally during the Second World War.

Flight Lieutenant Rodney Scrase DFC flew Spitfires as part of 72 Squadron from 1941 in Sicily and North Africa, for which he received his



HONOUR: Distinguished guest Flight Lieutenant Rodney Scrase cuts the tape to herald the GForces expansion, having attended the original office opening in 2008

Distinguished Flying Cross. He finished the war as part of 1 Squadron, flying bomber escort missions out of RAF Manston.

He is president of the 72 Squadron Association and maintains a close relationship with the GForces team, having been one of the guests to

open the original office back in 2008.

GForces managing director Giles Smith said: "We are delighted the extension to our headquarters is now finished and ready to use.

"This new premises allows us to take on more new starters and continue to grow our business with

minimal impact on the environment.

"We want to attract the brightest and the best, so the new jobs will come with competitive salaries well above the county average.

"We are honoured to have such a distinguished guest opening our new extension. Our business strives to

push the boundaries, to succeed and to provide opportunity to the current and next generation.

"Pilots such as Rodney risked their lives for the same reasons during World War Two. It is the least we could do to open this extension in their honour."

High hopes for small firms thanks to loan scheme

THE Federation of Small Businesses says it welcomes a proposal to provide up to £40 billion of bank-loan guarantees through a National Loan Guarantee Scheme.

However, it says the Government should follow the principles set out by the FSB that explain how this can be used to particularly target small businesses that are the backbone of the Kent economy.

Figures show 90 per cent of FSB members turn over £1 million or less, while the average amount borrowed by FSB members over 12 months is about £25,000.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "According to the most recent FSB Voice of Small Business Index, 33 per cent of those

who requested a loan were turned down, and 21 per cent of those who did get a loan had to pay interest rates of 10 per cent or higher.

"In line with the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking report, the National Loan Guarantee Scheme should be run in a way that encourages competition outside the major players who currently dominate the market.

"It should also increase access to the smallest companies, specifically improving the supply and price of credit for those at the lower end of the market... for example, below loan values of £25,000, where the majority of demand lies and where firms have had particular problems raising finance.

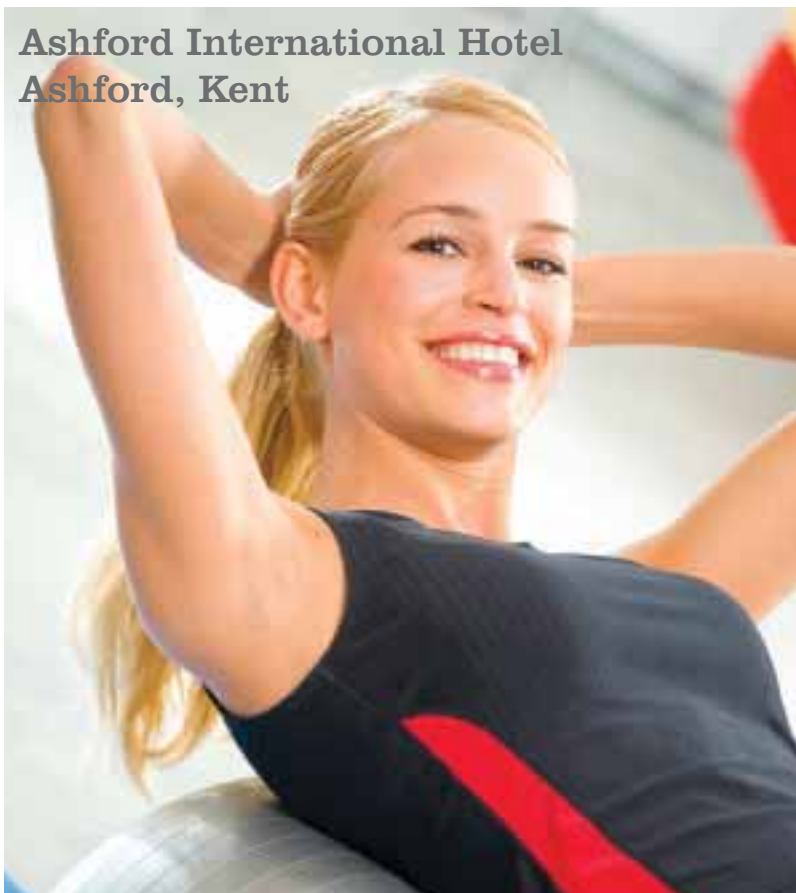
"The scheme must increase credit flow to 'hard to reach' sectors, such as rural areas, start-up businesses and areas that have experienced industrial decline.

"Finally, the FSB in Kent is calling on our local Members of Parliament and asking them to write to the Chancellor and to urge them to set out what specific measures are being taken to ensure the scheme meets these important objectives and reaches the local small businesses here in Kent, which are most in need of access to affordable credit."

READY CASH: It is hoped small businesses in particular will benefit from the National Loan Guarantee Scheme



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Construction project builds lasting legacy

College success with 2-for-1 offer

WHEN Erith engineering firm WT Henley Ltd needed to take on a trainee engineer it went North West Kent College in Gravesend.

And the chief engineer was so impressed by the students he interviewed, the company has taken on two apprentices rather than just the one it originally planned.

Chief engineer Owen Williams said: "Apparently 'we have a shortage of skilled engineers in the UK'. I find that as a kick in the teeth to college lecturers and students who work very hard to ensure this is not the case."

The successful students, Sam Toulson, 18, and Samantha Clark, 19, start at the company in the New Year for three days a week while continuing their studies with North West Kent College on the Extended Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Next year they will return to start the HNC in electrical and electronic engineering.

"This speaks volumes for the work we do here at North West Kent College as well as demonstrating that good ties are being forged with reputable employers", said curriculum supervisor Stephen Crockford.

Welder training centre to open

AN independent inspection and testing business in Kent is set to open a new welder training centre as part of its expansion plans.

Sittingbourne-based Spree Engineering was founded by director Chris Spree in 1978, and provides weld testing services and non-destructive testing of buildings, structures and pipelines for companies in the power generation, petro-chemical and construction industries.

Its customers include the National Grid and the engineering firm Laing O'Rourke.

The opening of the welder training school early in the New Year will create two new jobs and will add to the company's current ability to test welders who want to become registered.

Spree Engineering director Chris Spree said: "While we've been involved with welder testing for many years, the new school will enable us to train welders for the first time which will be a valuable addition to our business and the construction industry."

THE UK's first-ever National Skills Academy for Construction has closed its doors after four years, with organisers saying it leaves a "proud and lasting legacy in its wake".

It was established on Denne Construction's Stanhope estate regeneration project in Ashford in 2007, and has contributed to the local economy and the lives of local people by providing apprenticeships and training opportunities for school leavers, long-term unemployed, and community members.

The project was centred around the £65 million residential regeneration scheme at Stanhope, which included the development of more than 400 new homes, as well as the refurbishment of 330 existing council-owned properties.

CITB - Construction Skills Worked with Denne Construction to develop a dedicated Employment and Skills Plan for the scheme, to ensure the skills needs of the project and local area were met, while ensuring local apprentices, businesses and schools benefitted.

The National Skills Academy for Construction model which was used for the project enables training at all levels to be delivered on a local basis, around major construction projects, rather than being delivered off-site in a pre-established training course.

Gary Hewison, performance co-ordinator for National Skills Academy for Construction in the South, said: "The National

Skills Academy for Construction here in Ashford has focused on delivering the right skills required by contractors direct to their project, as and when they need it, as well as providing training for people in the local community.

"This has been a huge success and has set the bar for others to follow.

"I am pleased to say all our targets have been fulfilled and as part of the legacy of the project local people, who are looking for training and career opportunities, will now be directed to an advice service for those seeking work or training in the construction industry."

Denne business improvement manager

Nicholas Fowler

said: "We are extremely happy with how successful this project has been, with so many local people having benefited. We developed and maintained a great relationship with local colleges and schools, which lead to an extremely successful work experience programme, of which we are very proud.

"We are committed to rolling out this approach to other projects across the country."

The project has:

- Successfully placed 31 apprentices.
- Arranged more than 200 NVQs.
- Organised 82 work experience placements.
- Delivered more than 152 school engagement activities.
- Welcomed more than 670 students from local schools



NEW BUILD: Denne site manager Nolan Cox and a student from Hayesbrook School

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UCA architecture students team up to win top design competition

A TEAM of students from the University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury has won the American Institute of Architects UK Student Charrette 2011.

The one-day design competition, attended by many leading schools of architecture in the UK, was contended by 10 teams in London.

Oliver Froome-Lewis, BA (Hons) Architecture course leader at UCA Canterbury, said: "This is a significant win showcasing the contemporary quali-

ties of our students' approaches, their commitment and their highly productive and collaborative working methods."

The competition required students to work in teams of six to eight, representing their school or institution.

The winning team from UCA consisted of Harry Varnavas, Frazer Day, Sam Edwards, Andrew Woolford, Sarah Hussain, Yvonne Jackson, Pharsisi Kanchanmai and Lucy Smith.

This year's theme challenged

students to 'explore how architectural form can create both expressive and rich interior spaces which heighten one's understanding of an overall concept or idea'.

Harry Varnavas said: "We came up with a dynamic design which at the same time gave the idea of a 'living building'. This provided the viewer with the experience of living within a movable space. Ramps were positioned and the shapes of the new exhibition spaces were created."

Students' success at letting their fingers do the talking

STUDENTS in Ramsgate can now communicate with deaf people in sign language.

The youngsters at the Chatham and Clarendon Grammar Federation have gained Level 1 passes in British Sign Language following a 32-week course of intensive after-school studies.

The project run in conjunction with the Royal School for Deaf Children, Westgate College for Deaf People, and The John Townshend Trust, has been so successful a new group of students is now learning BSL, which is a recognised language.

The certificates were presented at a ceremony by Gail Joslin, BSL tutor, and Jon Palmer, BSL co-ordinator and tutor.

Sixth former Abi Attwell plans to study clinical engineering at university. She said: "I want to work with disabled people and learning BSL is an important way for me to communicate with those who are deaf."

Maddy Kinloch in Year 10 is studying Level 2 in BSL, and said: "I want to improve my signing skills because my best friend's sister is deaf and I want to be able to talk with her in her language."



CERTIFICATE: Pupils at Chatham and Clarendon Grammar Federation celebrate their exam passes

Mrs Joslin said: "I am impressed with the way that the school embraced learning BSL as a trial and then wholeheartedly for Level 1 certificates, which are equivalent to a GCSE C grade pass."

"Learning BSL is a fantastic asset for people in their lives, not least in a raft of professions like medicine and teaching. It is also expressive and I have seen how students have developed self-esteem through the learning programme."

Mr Palmer added, through sign language: "BSL Level 1 means these students can now hold a basic level of communication with a deaf person. They have shown a high level of dedication to progress so well in a short space of time. As a deaf person it is important when hearing that people bother to learn and communicate with us through signing."

Would-be interior designers get the chance to learn bedroom style

IF you fancy yourself as the next Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen or Linda Barker then MidKent College's new short evening courses in interior design might be just the ticket.

Starting in January, the first 10-week course is aimed at beginners who will study towards a City and Guilds in interior design (bedroom and bathroom).

Those who successfully complete the course have the option to progress to a further 10-week course geared towards

the design of lounges and office space.

MidKent College lecturer Elsie Bentley said: "The courses will be fun and very 'hands-on'."

"They are for anyone interested in interior design, whether you're a budding professional designer or someone who just wants some creative ideas for your bedroom."

Call 01622 624905 or email elaine.bentley@midkent.ac.uk for more information.



STYLISH: TV's Linda Barker



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Care Workers

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- Competitive rates of pay
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London Care is a leading provider of care support services to vulnerable older people and children with disabilities living in their own homes.

For an application form contact the central recruitment team on 0208 795 6555 or e-mail: recruitment@londoncare.co.uk

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PART-TIME SUPPORT WORKER

required at
Residential Home based in Doddington, Sittingbourne
to help adults with learning disabilities.

Must have own transport due to location.

Full training will be given, including NVQ.

For more information, please call Mrs Brooks
- Tel: **01795 886220**



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Use your skills and experience as a parent by supporting another parent who is finding life difficult at present.

We offer initial and on-going training to our volunteers. It is **FREE** with out of pocket expenses reimbursed. For giving just a few hours a week, you will get so much back!

The next course starts Tuesday 21st February 2012 and runs during school hours for 10 sessions (every Tuesday and Thursday).

CALL NOW on 01843 866344 to book a place or for further information.



Celebratory Officers

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY?

The Kent Registration Service is looking for Celebratory Officers to register and conduct their diverse range of civil ceremonies, these include marriages, partnerships, renewal of vows and welcoming and funerals. The volume of ceremonies varies throughout the year, so you will be required to work weekends, bank holidays, weekdays as well as in the holiday season, to find out more visit www.kent.gov.uk

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The Spencer Wing is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager

Full time

To manage our Physiotherapy Department and maintain clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity, primarily at Margate but across both sites.

Six or more years post graduate experience and previous management experience preferred.

Closing date for applications 20th January 2012

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Lynn Orrin, Hospital Manager - 01843 234554

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital,
Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

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- Windows and SQL Server 2008, Windows Active Directory, Solr, Apache, Linux, CDN (Akamai), HTTP, SSL, FTP, TCP/IP, ICMP
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To apply send your CV to recruitment@pagesuite.com. For more information visit <http://pagesu.it/januaryjobs> and select your role.

Happy New Year?

Not for everyone, for some the days will be gloomy and without hope. **SAMARITANS** will be the only ones they can talk to 24/7 for a voice to lighten their darkest hours. If you would like to help, just a few hours a week can change lives - including your own.

Call Gill or Barry on 01303 239179 for further information



REGISTERED NURSES RGN AND CARE ASSISTANTS

Come and join our friendly team here at Applecroft - a modern nursing home, purpose built to accommodate the needs of older people and set in a pleasant location in the village of River, Dover. Applications welcomed from Registered Nurses and Care Assistants who either have experience in caring for older people (experience or qualification in Dementia Care an advantage) or wish to gain experience in this field.

To arrange an informal visit and application please contact: Brendan O'Connor, Clinical Manager. Tel 01304 821331



The future of local media

Be part of an exciting and growing team working for the largest community media company in the UK with all its associated benefits

Digital & Business Development Manager

Archant KOS Media is looking to recruit an experienced commercial person who has a strong background of business development preferably in the online arena.

This person will be used to putting together Powerpoint presentations to key accounts and must be able to work with the minimum of supervision.

On occasions the successful applicant will go out on joint presentations with other sales account managers to present bespoke solutions for their clients through our various online services.

This is a key position and will report directly to the Ad Director and work very closely with the Field Sales Manager for Kent.

This person will need to build and develop relationships across all of Kent and will support the commercial management team in it's long term goals.

You will also be required to work on occasions from our Ashford based offices but it is envisaged that in the main, it will be working in the field.

The position offers an excellent salary package and generous bonus scheme with company car, as well as ongoing training and career development plus 5 weeks annual leave, contributory pension scheme and life assurance.

A full driving licence is essential.

Account Manager Field Based (x2)

Archant KOS Media are looking to recruit highly driven, confident, self motivated team players to work on our portfolio of products which consist of newspapers, magazines and digital platforms, you will need to be able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets.

Working with an existing client base where customer service is paramount, you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. You will be building long lasting relationships with organisations throughout Kent.

Ideally you will be from a sales or marketing background and have the drive, tenacity and determination to succeed. Basic knowledge of computer systems is required.

We offer a company car, excellent basic salary plus a generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. A full driving licence is essential.

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Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton

Advertising Director, Archant KOS Media
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
or email ynez.coton@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

FRENCH

Oliver James French, %0d%0aborn 12th December 2011 to David and Ruth. A brother for Ben.

GILLESPIE

Louis Myles born on 13th November 2011, weighing 9lb. Son to Susan and Lee Gillespie and brother to Joshua in Maidstone.

HORNCASTLE

Sienna Maria born on 4th December 2011 weighing 7lb 0oz. Daughter to Philip Horncastle and Natalie Harcos.

ISAACS

Michael and Lindsey are proud to announce the birth of Jake Isaacs. A baby brother to Alex Isaacs.

JENKINS

Victoria and Wayne are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby son Roman Andreas Jenkins born on 9th December 2011 weighing 6lb 13oz.

KENT

James Christopher Kent born on the 10th December 2011, weighing 9lb 3oz. Brother to Tom and son to Chris and Kate of Charing.

MAULAYAH

Shweta and Devin Maulayah celebrate the birth of their daughter Arianna on 5th December 2011.

SHERRIN

Nikki and Paul celebrate the birth of their Daughter Amelia Hope on 4th December 2011 weighing 6lb 14oz.

STEVENS

Ava Pearl born on the 5th december 2011 at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury, weighing 9lb 8oz. Daughter to proud parents Suvi and Michael Stevens, of Maidstone.

STONER

Gabriela and Michael Stoner of Broadstairs celebrate the birth of their daughter Lily Rose Stoner on 3rd December 2011.

TESTER

Kian Oliver Wayne Tester born on the 10th December 2011 at 6.05pm, weighing 7lb 2oz. To proud parents Julia and Liam.

TUTT

Michelle and Andrew Tutt are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful boy Rory Adam Ronald Tutt, born at home on the 16th December 2011 at 2.55am weighing 10lbs. Welcome little brother to Eilidh.

WILSON

Lisa and Thomas celebrate the birth of their son Oliver Thomas Wilson, on 16th December 2011

DEATHS

BLACKBURN

In Loving Memory of Mary Rose Blackburn who peacefully passed away in the arms of those who loved her on Friday 16th December 2011

PENNY

Bryan John Penny died peacefully at home on the 19th December 2011. Funeral Service at Tonbridge Parish Church at 2pm on Monday 9th January 2012.

WHITE

Gill White died peacefully at home on 26th December 2011. Loving mother of Alexandra and Danielle. Fondly missed by all who loved her.



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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/DA/0537/2011 - Proposed development at
Wilmington Academy, Common Lane, Wilmington,
Dartford, Kent, DA2 7DR.**

Kent County Council Property and Infrastructure Support is applying to the Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for redevelopment of existing school site to include: Demolition of some of the existing buildings, retention of the existing horticulture vocational unit, arts block, sixth form/SEN block and science block and erection of a two-storey academy building and sports centre. Retention of existing hard surfaced games courts and sports playing fields and creation of new hard and soft play/recreation areas. Provision of 92 on site car parking spaces, 6 motorcycle parking spaces, 1 mini bus parking space, 4 bus/coach pick up/drop off spaces and 146 cycle spaces. Creation of a hard surfaced one-way access road. Retention of existing vehicular exit on to Common Lane and creation of a new vehicular entrance from Common Lane to the West. Provision of associated hard and soft landscaping. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development affects a public right of way.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

**KCC/TW/0523/2011 - Proposed development at
Sandhurst Wastewater Treatment Works, Crouch
Lane, Sandhurst, Kent, TN18 5PA.**

Southern Water Ltd. is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for additional processes upgrading Sandhurst Wastewater Treatment Works facilities including two walk-in kiosks and upflow nutrient reduction Sand Filters.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 8th January 2012



Planning applications



Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01815/FUL: 46 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8DJ Single-storey extension and alteration of fenestration to rear and replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Gibb** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01890/FUL: 25 School Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 7AL Erection of porch to side elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Gabriel** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/01980/FUL: Land at Middle Pett Farm, Pett Bottom Road, Bishopsbourne Erection of polytunnels. **Applicant: F W Mansfield & Son** Reason: Major development.
CA/11/02000/FUL: Telford House, Telford Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LX First floor extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Pinchin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02018/FUL: Land at Rhodaus Town, Canterbury Erection of student accommodation comprising 448 bedrooms. **Applicant: Peugeot Motor Company plc/Petros Canterbury Ltd** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA/11/02040/FUL: 34 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Demolition of two-storey rear extension and erection of replacement two-storey extension with dormer window and accommodation in roofspace. **Applicant: Mrs Nearn** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02063/FUL: 22 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury Installation of ATM. **Applicant: Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02069/FUL: Former Tannery Buildings, Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PL Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/08/1416/FUL for conversion and extension of former tannery buildings, including rebuilding of part of building 5 to provide 44 bedroom hotel with bar and bistro, in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Hotel Du Vin Limited** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA/11/02079/LB: Unit 1, 4-6 Orange Street, Canterbury Change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to restaurant/cafe (Use Class A3) and associated alterations. **Applicant: Praedia Investments Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/11/02080/FUL: Unit 1, 4-6 Orange Street, Canterbury Change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to restaurant/cafe (Use Class A3). **Applicant: Praedia Investments Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02085/FUL: Highstead Riding Centre, Highstead, Chislehurst, CT3 4LX Erection of six dwellings and associated parking and landscaping. **Applicant: Mr Todd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02102/FUL: Greenways, Beech Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AU Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two-storey side extension to dwelling. **Applicant: A Creighton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02119/FUL: 44 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JF Replacement windows and doors. **Applicant: Mrs J Lancefield** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 30 January 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 6 January 2012

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LONG LEASEHOLD OPPORTUNITY STIRLING SPORTS CENTRE

Rochester, Kent
By Informal Tender

The Stirling Centre is one of Medway Council's public sports and leisure centres situated on Maidstone Road close to the M2 and M20 motorway links. The building has a GIA of approximately 1750 m² (18,800 sq.ft) and is situated within a site of approximately 1.69 ha (4.18 acres).

www.medway.gov.uk/thestirlingcentre

Offers are invited for an initial development agreement to enable refurbishment of the facility for continuing sporting and complimentary uses. Upon completion a long lease will be granted to maintain and enhance use as a public and private leisure facility.

Offers invited by informal tender
Closing date: 12noon, Friday, 3 February 2012

For a full information pack contact: property@medway.gov.uk or 01634 332050



YOUR LOCAL PAPER

It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press
closer to home

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/03762/HOUSE** **Stream Farm Iden Green Road, Benenden**
- Tiled roof extension with glazed link (LB)
- 11/03767/LBC** **Stream Farm Iden Green Road, Benenden**
- Listed building consent - tiled roof extension with glazed link (LB)
- 11/03768/HOUSE** **The Manse Standen Street, Benenden**
- Two storey rear extension with window to south east side, conservatory and bay window extension to south east elevation and replacement single garage with log store (LB)
- 11/03733/HOUSE** **Monktons Windmill Hill, Brencley**
- First floor side and rear extension with windows on north and west elevations (CA)
- 11/03772/HOUSE** **2 Brattles Grange Cottages Tibbs Court Lane, Brencley**
- Two storey and single storey side extension with windows to front, side and rear elevations (LB)
- 11/03743/HOUSE** **Thornedene High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Ground floor rear extension and related alterations to dwelling (CA)
- 11/03722/FUL** **Land At The Junction Of Post Office Road And Northgrove Road, Hawkhurst**
- Construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings (CA)
- 11/03729/FUL** **J K Security Ltd Grove Mills, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use from office to residential (LB) (CA)
- 11/03732/FUL** **Stiles Oast Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Change of use of agricultural land to ancillary residential curtilage (retrospective) (LB)
- 11/03734/LBC** **Drum & Monkey House Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of five windows to front of house with new oak windows to match existing old windows (LB)
- 11/03709/FUL** **Freelancers Ltd The Meeting House, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Removal of condition 6 of TW/08/03177 restricting hours of use for air conditioning units (TW/10/03873/FUL refers), variation of condition 4 - material details of garage door (CA) (LB)
- 11/03751/LBC** **Fairlawn House 22 Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Provision of stair handrails to main entrance door (LB)
- 11/03736/HOUSE** **Amber Court Holden Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Freestanding garage and associated landscaping (CA) (LB)
- 11/03788/HOUSE** **65 The Boundary Langton Green, Speldhurst**
- Conversion of part garage to living accommodation with new window to front (west) elevation and rooflight to rear (east) elevation (LB)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.
- You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
- Dated: 07 January 2012**

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 12 January 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW



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Benefits include:

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To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Closing date: 18 January 2012

Interview Date: 24 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

- MA/11/1841/S** - LOCKMEADOW CENTRE, BARKER ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8SF - Alterations to entrances, including new stairs, terracing and lift to Barker Road, and new rear terrace. **Reason: 6**
- MA/11/2039/N** - THE HAYLOFT, OLD SHELVE, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DT - Demolition of existing disused milking parlour and construction of a new bungalow for use ancillary to the use of 'The Hayloft'. **Reason: 1**
- MA/11/2110/N** - TRAVIS PERKINS TRADING CO LTD, COBTREE HOUSE, FORSTAL ROAD, AYLESFORD, KENT, ME20 7AG - Outline application for the erection of a building for B1, B2, B8 and or vehicular showroom use with access to be considered at this time and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 6**
- MA/11/2111/N** - TRAVIS PERKINS TRADING CO LTD, COBTREE HOUSE, FORSTAL ROAD, AYLESFORD, KENT, ME20 7AG - Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide a new builders merchant, trade counter (B1c, B2, B8) units along with vehicular storage, access, service road and parking. **Reason: 6**
- MA/11/2116/N** - LAND ADJACENT TO BARTY HOUSE NURSING HOME, ROUNDWELL, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4HN - Erection of a detached house. **Reason: 1**
- MA/11/2122/S** - HILL PLACE, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AL - An application for listed building consent for installation of conservation rooflight to south elevation and internal alterations to bathroom. **Reason: 3**
- MA/11/2124/S** - REDVERS HOUSE, CHART ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AW - Erection of detached double garage. **Reason: 7**
- MA/11/2126/S** - 4, HAYLE MILL COTTAGES, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DT - Erection of single storey rear extension, and introduction of dormer and first floor window to rear elevation. **Reason: 2**
- MA/11/2136/S** - SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HT - Reconstruction of ragstone retaining wall. **Reason: 1, 2**
- MA/11/2137/S** - SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL, NORTH STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3HT - Listed building consent for reconstruction of ragstone retaining wall. **Reason: 3**
- MA/11/2140/N** - KENT WILDLIFE TRUST, TYLAND BARN, CHATHAM ROAD, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3BD - Temporary siting of two storage containers (for a 5 year period) 6m long by 2.5m wide and 2.5m high. Replacement of boundary fence and field gate. **Reason: 1**
- MA/11/2145/S** - THE FINCHES, CHARTWAY STREET, EAST SUTTON, KENT - Change of use of land for the storage of 10 caravans. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- Application is Major Development.
- Application affects a Public Right of Way.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **22nd January 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 8th January 2012



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(3)

APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS GRASMERE PASTURES AT WHITSTABLE AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Notice is hereby given that the Public Inquiry into the above matter, which commenced on Monday 5th September 2011, has been adjourned and will resume on:

Monday 30th January 2012 at 10.00am

at Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2BW

A copy of the Inspector's Directions (dated 24th May 2011), as well as the further Directions of the Inspector (dated 21st October 2011), setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

For further enquiries, please contact Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 8th January 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit
www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence Easter 2012

MPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,535
(TLR with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 20th January 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

R. S. SKIPS LTD of 25 Darnley Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0RZ is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to add an Operating Centre to keep 10 vehicles and 2 trailers at Unit 4 Apex Business Park, queens Farm Road, Shorne, Kent, DA12 3HU.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

(CHURCH LANE, WHITSTABLE)
(30 MPH SPEED LIMIT)
ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82, 83, 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called the Act), and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

SCHEDULE (30 mph Speed Limit)

1. Church Lane, Whitstable from its junction with the A2990 Thanet Way to its junction with Seasalter Lane and Faversham Road in a generally north-westerly direction.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Offices of Canterbury City Council, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Monday 30th January 2012.

MILL LANE, BRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Bridge, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Western Avenue.

The alternative route is via Union Road, Saxon Road and Western Avenue.

STODMARSH ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury, on or after 9 January 2012 for an estimated period of up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 'Robins'

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Littlebourne Road and Moat Lane.

The alternative route is via A257 Littlebourne Road, St Martin's Hill, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, St George's Place, A28 Lower Bridge Street, Broad Street, Military Road, Tourtel Road, Sturry Road, Mill Road, Water Lane, Fordwich Road, King Street, High Street and Moat Lane.

Any vehicles over 6' 6" wide should use A257 Littlebourne Road, Canterbury Road, The Hill, Jubilee Road, Court Hill, Elbridge Hill and Stodmarsh Road, due to the width restriction at Fordwich.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

HAMILTON ROAD, DEAL & STATION ROAD, WALMER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable Network Rail to carry out structural and safety inspections of railway bridges, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hamilton Road, Deal & Station Road, Walmer, on or after 11 January 2012 as shown below.

HAMILTON ROAD, DEAL will be closed from Wednesday 11 January 2012 at 10.00 pm until Thursday 12 January 2012 at 6.00 am

The alternative route is via Mill Road, Park Avenue, Gifford Road, A258 Victoria Road, The Strand, Dover Road and Cornwall Road.

STATION ROAD, WALMER will be closed from Thursday 12 January 2012 at 10.00 pm until Friday 13 January 2012 at 6.00 am.

The alternative route is via Sydney Road, St Richard's Road, and Court Road.

Each road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

NORTHBOURNE LANE, FINGLESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Northbourne Lane, Finglesham, on or after 11 January 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Ham Lane and Finglesham Road.

The alternative route is via Ham Lane, West Street Farm Road and Northbourne Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, HOUGHAM WITHOUT, DOVER) (WIDTH RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

Schedule

(Width Restriction)

Road Name	Length of road affected
Crook's Court Lane	From Gravel Lane northwards to its junction with Satmar Lane.
Gravel Lane	From its junction with Hougham Court Lane northwards to Crook's Court Lane.
Hougham Top Road	From its junction with Plough Hill westwards to its junction with Gravel Lane.
Plough Hill	From its junction with B2011 Folkestone Road northwards including Doctor's Lane and Stonyway Lane to the junction with Elms Hill and Elms Vale Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, during normal opening times.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 30 January 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

LOWER ROCHESTER ROAD GRAVESHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Rochester Road from its junction with Church Street to Town Road/Lower Rochester Road.

The Order will become effective on, 23rd January 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and last 2 weeks from the hours of 08:00am - 17:00pm. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Lower Rochester Road, A289 Wainscott by Pass, A226 Gravesend Road, Forge Lane and School Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(QUEEN ANNE ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Queen Anne Road outside of number 8 on or after

Sunday 15th January 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete. The One Way Order on Queen Anne Road between Brooks Place and Union Street will be suspended to allow for access.

The alternative route is via Brooks Place, Albion Place.

Southern Water Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace manhole covers and frames. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Laura Carlisle on 01403 282848.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ASHGROVE ROAD SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks at its junction with Burntwood Road.

The Order will become effective on 09 January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 09 January 2012 and last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Weald Road, Windmill Road, Oak Lane, Ashgrove Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate road excavation for a sewer connection

CHART LANE, BRASTED (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Chart Lane, Brasted between Emmetts Road and A25 High Street.

The Order will become effective on 08 January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 09 January 2012 and last 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Emmetts Road, New Road, A25 High Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate electrical maintenance.

HARTFIELD ROAD, EDENBRIDGE (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 30mph on Hartfield Road, Edenbridge between Lyden Lane and Hever Lane.

The Order will become effective on 9th January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for use when required for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 6 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to create a safe working area.

IDLEIGH COURT ROAD, ASH CUM RIDLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Idleigh Court Road, Ash Cum Ridley from Shipley Hills Road to New Street Road.

The Order will become effective on 22nd January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 23rd January 2012 and last 3 days. These

restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: approaching from the East, South along A227 Wrotham Road then West along Chapmans Hill and then North along New Street and New Street Road. The closure when approaching from the West is the same but reversed.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching.

PENSHURST ROAD, BULLINGSTONE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Penshurst Road, Bullingstone between the junctions of Bullingstone Lane and Poundsbridge Hill.

The Order will become effective on 22 January 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 23 January 2012 and will last three days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Barden Road, Penshurst Lane, Worthfields

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a replacement BT pole.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

MELON LANE, IVYCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Melon Lane, Ivychurch, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road and Newchurch Lane.

VARIOUS ROADS, FOLKESTONE (SANDGATE ROAD AREA) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads, Folkestone at their junctions with Sandgate Road, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

WESTBOURNE GARDENS

Both junctions with Sandgate Road will be closed from 9 January 2012 for up to 3 days

The east junction with Sandgate Road will remain closed on 12, 13 & 16 January

The alternative route is via Grimston Avenue and Westbourne Gardens

EARL'S AVENUE will be closed at the junction with Sandgate Road between 12 January and 20 January, except at the weekend.

The alternative route is via Sandgate Road, Castle Hill Avenue and Shorncliffe Road

TRINITY GARDENS will be closed at the junction with Sandgate Road from 23 January to 27 January

The alternative route is via Sandgate Road, Earl's Avenue and Bouverie Road West

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

DUNKIRK ROAD SOUTH, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-build a culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dunkirk Road South, Boughton under Blean, on or after 12 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



The closure will be in place between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Chrislocks Wood.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Dunkirk Road South and Horselees Road.

The alternative route is via Woodsend Road and South Street (Horselees Road).

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Woodsend Road will be suspended.

**SOUTH STREET, QUEENBOROUGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on South Street, Queenborough, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between West Street and High Street.

The alternative route is via West Street, North Road and High Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

**A299 CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MINSTER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to tie the existing road into the new carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A299 Canterbury Road West, Minster, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am each night.

The closure is in the vicinity of the east side of the junction with Cliffsend Roundabout.

There will be no access for through traffic between Cliffsend Roundabout and the Lord of the Manor Roundabout.

The alternative route is via the new A299 'Hengist Way' from Cliffsend Roundabout, the New A256 'Richborough Way' from Sevenscore Roundabout and A256 Sandwich Road from Ebbsfleet Roundabout.

Please note this date differs from that initially published.

**CHURCH ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to re-lay an electrical cable to cure local faults, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Broadstairs, on or after 23 January 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Nelson Place.

The alternative route is via B2052 Nelson Place, Rectory Road and Shutter Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET AND MARKET STREET, MARGATE)
(20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012**

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) and 87 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby make the following Order:-

The effect of this order will revoke the order: "The Kent County Council (High Street and Market Street, Margate) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2007".

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20 miles per hour on the lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
3. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (High Street and Market Street, Margate) (20 mph Speed Limit) Order 2012" and shall come into operation on the 16 day of January, 2012.

Schedule 1	
High Street	1.) From the junction with Market Street to the junction with Queen Street
High Street	2.) From the junction with Queen Street to the junction with Mill Lane
Market Street, The Parade, Duke Street, Newby's Place, Lombard Street	For their entire length

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(NETHERCOURT HILL, RAMSGATE)
(RESTRICTED ROAD TRAFFIC) ORDER 2012**

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections 82 (1) and 87 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act hereby propose to make the following Order:-

(Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate) (Restricted Road Traffic) Order 2012

The effect of the proposed order will revoke the order: The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Thanet) (Speed Limits) Order 1995 Schedule two (4) Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate. By revoking this order Nethercourt Hill will become a (30mph) restricted speed road.

Nethercourt Hill, Ramsgate - Between the junction with Nethercourt Farm Road and the junction with Nethercourt Circus roundabout (a distance of approximately 400 metres).

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(READING STREET, BROADSTAIRS)
(20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012**

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby propose to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed order will introduce a 20mph speed limit in Reading Street, Broadstairs on the following lengths of street:

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20 miles per hour in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- Reading Street and Balliol Road, Broadstairs - For their entire length.

- Elmwood Close, Astor Road, Trinity Square, Broadstairs - For their entire length.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

**YORK STREET, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of electricity cable repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on York Street, Broadstairs, on or after 9 January 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Charlotte Street and Chandos Road.

The alternative route is via High Street, Belvedere Road and Dundonald Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Street will be suspended between the junctions with Chandos Road and Dundonald Road to allow access.

HIGHWAYS - Thanet & Dover

**(OLD) A256 RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to complete surfacing and roadmarkings to tie in with the existing road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the (Old) A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, as shown below.

The planned closure times are on the evenings of 13, 14 and 16 January 2012 from 8.00 pm until 6.00 am each night, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed from the new Ebbsfleet Roundabout near Richborough to the junction with Ebbsfleet Lane.

The alternative route is from Ebbsfleet Roundabout via the new A256 Richborough Way and new A299 Hengist Way to the Lord of the Manor Roundabout.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A20 LONDON ROAD, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TURNING RIGHT)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic turning right into Hermitage Lane on or after Sunday 15th January 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road eastbound to the Coldharbour Roundabout and return westbound on A20 London Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Jez Massy on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BASTED LANE, PLATT, PLOUGH HILL, PLAXTOL, MILL LANE, BOROUGH GREEN)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Basted Lane, Plough Hill, Mill Lane on or after Monday 9th January 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Thong Lane, Quarry Hill Road, Maidstone Road, Crouch Lane, Long Mill Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mandy Richardson on 0370 0500792.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL STREET, LEVEL CROSSING, SNODLAND)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street at the level crossing on or after Wednesday 11th January 2012 between 22.30hrs and 06.30hrs for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are complete.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for tamping at the level crossing due to a track fault. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Emma Orsborne on 01924 372957.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PILGRIMS WAY, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pilgrims Way on the eastbound carriageway of the dual carriageway from the start of dualing to Rochester Road on or after Sunday 15th January 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Bull Lane, High Street, Rochester Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Jez Massy on 08458 247 800.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OLD HADLOW ROAD, TONBRIDGE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Old Hadlow Road outside 46 to Stair Road on or after Monday 9th January 2012 for a period of up to 5 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Old Hadlow Road, Cornwallis Avenue.

Southern Water Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to upsze the existing sewer and rebuild a manhole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alan Skipper on 01273 663650.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SANDROCK ROAD & ST JAMES' ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
(SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER
& NO RIGHT TURN RESTRICTION)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Sandrock Road between the junctions of Ferndale and Lansdowne Road and on St James' Road between Sandrock Road to Beulah Road on or after Monday 9th January 2012 for a period of up to 22 days or until such works are complete. The one way order on Beulah Road between St James' Road and Granville Road will be suspended and the no right turn restriction from Garden Road into Camden Road will be suspended whilst the works take place.

The alternative route is via Lansdowne Road, Garden Road, Camden Road, Albion Road, King George V Hill, Hilbert Road, Ferndale.

Southern Water Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new manhole and connections. Should you require any further information about these works please call Southern Water on 08458 278 0845.

**John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ**

Dated 8th January 2012

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





DOVER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REGISTRAR REQUIRED

Full time with some Saturdays.
NOT term-time only.

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The successful candidate will combine outstanding people skills with experience of sales/marketing with a keen eye for detail who is comfortable working in a busy office with an international and local customer base.

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To apply, please contact Yvonne Sadler on 01304 205969

or by email: admin@dovercollege.org.uk

Closing Date: Monday 16th January

Interviews: week commencing 23rd January

Dover College is an equal opportunity employer. Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and the selected individual will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks at the enhanced level, in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

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Fixed Term until 30th June 2012

To provide support for students on a 1:1 basis, or as a group and to work as a member of a team to support young people with a range of conditions with a focus on behaviour and emotional, social difficulties.

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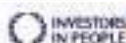
If you require assistance please telephone

our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 11th January 2012

Interview Date: Monday 30th January 2012

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

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The successful candidates will be required to assist in the day to day running of the College Restaurant/Refectory/Pastry Kitchens and to assist and supervise students in all aspects of Kitchen/Pastry work.

The programme will result in a Level 3 qualification providing an excellent gateway into the world of employment for 16 to 18 year olds. You therefore must already have a Level 2 qualification in Food Preparation and Production.

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A netbook to support your studies

A Trilogy Salon voucher to the value of £20

A clothing allowance, if applicable, for specific work wear

A daily meal voucher for the College Food Court

Closing Date for applications: 18 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

We value the diversity of our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**



MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Great House, Gills Green, Hawkhurst**
Applicant: **Martial Chaussy**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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The circus is coming and promises to horrify us all

SEE PAGE 46



KAST OFFS

Former Kinks are looking to really get us

SEE PAGE 47

Kent Weekend



Sixties somethings

Herman's Hermits and fellow time travellers hit the road

SEE PAGE 43

PLUS: Warm yourself this winter with a few traditional Mexican dishes - **food and drink p45** Mill site transformation is set in motion - **property p49** Renault Scenic is definitely well worth a full viewing - **driving p51**

Corinth Canal, Greek Islands & Istanbul

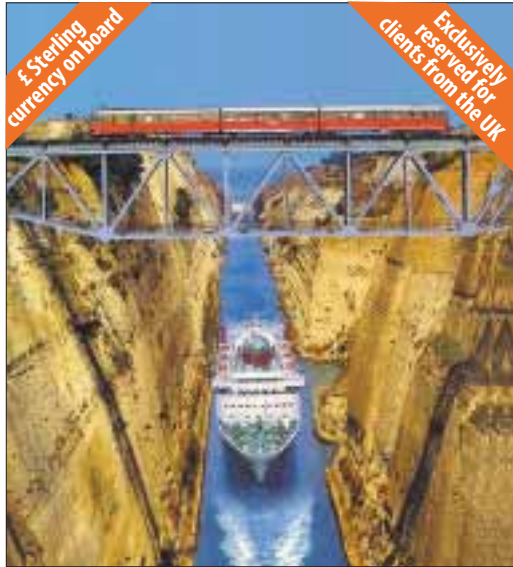
Escorted Rail-Cruise from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
Fly-Cruise also available
12 days
Quote GC10-KOS
From £1199pp

10 to 21 October, 2012

Join us on this rare opportunity to cruise through the amazing Corinth Canal, visit the breathtakingly beautiful Greek Islands and the amazing east-meets-west city of Istanbul - bustling, dynamic and full of heady aromas.

On our journey to join the cruise in the south of France we experience the thrill of European rail travel. We then cruise to some of the eastern Mediterranean's must-see destinations on board the mv Arion - one of very few liners able to pass through the Corinth Canal.

Accommodating up to 320 passengers, the Arion has a friendly and intimate atmosphere. She will



be exclusively reserved for guests from the UK with £ Sterling the main currency on board.

PORTS OF CALL:

- Embark France - Marseilles
- Italy - Sardinia
- Greece - Katakolon
- Greece - Corinth Canal
- Turkey - Istanbul
- Greece - Santorini
- Greece - Kefalonia
- Italy - Sicily
- Disembark Marseilles

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) or return flight to Marseilles
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Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
Quote DP-KOS
8 & 9 days
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16 April (8 days), 16 May, 17 & 24 Sept, 2012 (9 days)

This super holiday taking in the French & Italian Rivas, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras (or join at Ebbsfleet/Ashford) before boarding the Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and visits to Monaco & Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in
- Return rail travel
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris

- 6 or 7 nights half board in Diano Marina with free house wine/beers/spirits 18.00 to 23.00hrs every night
- Included excursions
- All transfers abroad



Monaco Spring Gardens & Villefranche Citadel in Bloom

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
6 days
Quote MR4-KOS

£699pp

Sale Price £659pp

12 to 17 April, 2012

Monaco and the Côte d'Azur have many magnificent gardens with species from distant lands. The Princess Grace Rose Garden is one of Monte Carlo's most visited attractions. Set in Fontvieille Park, bordered by palms and olive trees the rose garden is an area of calm and serenity where the scent of 4,000 roses perfumes in the air. Join us as we visit this garden, Monaco's Jardin Exotique and more. We will also visit Villefranche-sur-mer 'Citadel in Bloom' flower show overlooking the Cap Ferrat peninsula.



INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Afternoon departure
- Return rail travel from London to Nice (Ebbsfleet & Ashford

departures on request)

- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 4 nights hotel B&B in Nice
- All garden visits
- All transfers abroad



Monaco Historic Grand Prix

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
5 days
Quote HP5-KOS
From £699pp

10 to 14 May, 2012

Come with us to Monaco to enjoy the glitz and glamour of the Historic Grand Prix - run on the modern F1 course. Travel by train from London with an overnight stay in Paris and 3 nights in Nice.

Get close to the the action with grandstand seats for practice and race days.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Afternoon departure
- Return rail travel from London to Nice (Ebbsfleet & Ashford departures on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 3 nights 3-star hotel in Nice (4-star hotel upgrade available)
- Return coastal train tickets Nice to Monaco
- 2 day seated tickets for Historic Grand Prix
- All transfers abroad



We're into something good

Years may come, years may go, but Herman's Hermits are still going strong, as **Nick Ames** discovers

HERMAN'S Hermits started out in Manchester and since 1964 the band have chalked up more than 10 hit albums, three major movies and countless television shows and concert tours all over the world – with total record sales of more than 75 million to date.

Original member Barry Whitwam has guided the group into one of the hardest-working bands in the business – still averaging more than 200 one-night-stands per year, including one in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The band will be playing alongside The Dreamers, The Tremeloes and The Union GapUK in The Sensational 60s Experience.

The golden oldies still make up a large part of their show. Favourite songs include I'm Into Something Good, Mrs Brown You've Got A Lovely Daughter, Silhouettes, Dandy, Can't You Hear My Heart Beat, There's A Kind Of Hush, No Milk Today and Sunshine Girl.

And drummer Whitwam has spent a lifetime in rock 'n' roll.

"It's a bit different now from the 1960s," he said. "Now we go and meet the audience and sign autographs rather than run for our lives from a pack of screaming girls. Some had scissors – they'd be trying to cut your hair off."

On tour in 1967, Herman's Hermits were supported by The Who and Whitwam found himself celebrating his 21st birthday with legendary wildman Keith Moon.

"We were in the Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan," he said. "Keith flicked some cream from a cake at one of our band and another grabbed [Moon's] trousers. The seams broke and they fell off and he wasn't wearing any pants. A policeman we had guarding us drew his gun and Keith was hustled out the door before he could be arrested for indecent exposure."

"But he fell over and knocked his front teeth out. At the hospital four people had to hold him down as he'd had so much booze that the pain-killers didn't work."

"Another time we were about to jump from a



second-floor window into a swimming pool for a bet. But Keith came flying past us in cape, boots and top-hat. He'd jumped from the floor above. All bets were off from that moment on as he emerged from the pool, hat still on."

Whitwam also met Elvis Presley on one memorable occasion.

He said: "It all came about in the summer of 1965. Herman's Hermits had just finished a big tour of America in Hawaii at the Coliseum and we were booked to fly home the next day, but that night after the last show we got a telephone call from Colonel Tom Parker – Elvis's manager."

"He said Elvis Presley would like to meet Herman's Hermits on his film set the next day. I

and Peter [Noone, the group's singer] were delighted to be invited and we managed to change our tickets home for a flight 24 hours later. Karl, Keith and Derek [the rest of the band] chose to fly home, missing the chance of a lifetime."

"Elvis was filming Paradise Hawaiian Style and we were to meet him on the film set on the beach that same day at two in the afternoon."

"We arrived on the film set just before two and Colonel Tom met us and told us Elvis had just gone out for a ride on his motorbike with his friends and would be back very soon. Just then we heard what sounded like thunder coming from down the beach a long way off."

"As the sound got louder, we could see about



FUN TIMES: Barry Whitwam meets Elvis Presley, above; Herman's Hermits today, left

13 motorbikes side by side coming towards us. Elvis was in the centre as they roared on to the film set. What an entrance, as they say in showbusiness.

"We found out later that Elvis had bought each of his friends their motorbikes. He was such a generous person. As he approached us, I was spellbound... it was as if God had come down from Heaven."

"Altogether we had about two hours with Elvis and talked about our tour of America. He knew we had millions of fans there, but I don't think he really understood why. Elvis seemed to want to know what our secret was – how five young lads from Manchester could make such a big impact around the world."

"I now have a large framed photo of Elvis and me mounted on my Wall of Fame at home."

■ **The Sensational 60s Experience comes to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, February 9, at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £23 or £21 from the box office on 01892 530613 or via www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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BLACK female, professional, African, 5ft 2ins, size 12, late 30's, hardworking, no ties, seeks man for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389090**

FAEMALE 42, African, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

TALL slim, blonde, blue eyed voluptuous female, seeks older male, 70 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382453**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

ANGELA Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227**

DAWN young looking slim attractive fashionable 40's female, cultured and educated, discreet, WLTm genuine male for mutually convenient relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382223**

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205**

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interest, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203**

LISA attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curly size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159**

ANN slim blonde female, lovely big blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTm caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

WANNA spend Chirimo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Fun! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTm male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363**

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361**

ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

KATH slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a dvd and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381729**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

Hi genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laid back attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381697**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for life and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339**

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335**

CHRISTMAS special! Tia shy pretty female 39, seeks outgoing man to coax me out of my shell, for good times and old langsyms. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381333**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes wining/dining, theatre, WLTm reliable male for dinner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388484**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTm male for adult fun. **ACA. can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! **Be** attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-50yrs to get to know for life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

Men Seeking

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

48YR old male, born again Christian, seeks loving, faithful female for loving marriage. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383239**

FUN loving male, 49, good job, likes sport seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389170**

TONY good looking male, seeking female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389166**

RICHARD 47, likes theatre, holidays, museums, travel, countryside, walks, looking for happy LTR with female, 36-63. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383173**

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151**

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959**

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933**

LESLIE 34yr old single-ton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTm male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

PAUL 62, caring, reliable, understanding, no ties, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 52-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382175**

HOWARD 53, medium build, 6ft, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks female, size 8-14 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382129**

MALE 44 likes meals out, cinema, seeks considerate, outgoing female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389066**

STEVE designer, 5ft 10ins, good looking, seeking friendly lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382601**

IRVING 72, tactile, N/S, likes bowls, seeking attractive N/S female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382567**

MICHAEL 58, retired, 6ft, many interests, fit, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382519**

ENGLISH male, 70, N/S, sporty, fit, loves life, laughter, dance, meals out, seeks lady, age/nationality unimportant for meaningful friendship and good enjoyment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382445**

WITTY attractive, professional male, 42, warm, sensitive, caring, OHAC, seeks a woman who knows her own mind and direction. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389012**

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DEREK country loving man seeks young lady up to 50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382353**

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PAUL 62, caring, reliable, understanding, no ties, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 52-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382175**

HOWARD 53, medium build, 6ft, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, seeks female, size 8-14 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382129**

MALE seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388960**

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PETER 51, 5ft 7ins, slim-medium build, CD, seeks active male, 55-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388970**

JACK 65, seeks male, 40-70 for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381753**



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Traditional Mexican fare proved a delicious way to end the year

THE day before New Year's Eve was always going to be a quiet night for restaurants.

Combined with dismal, cold weather and driving rain, many had even decided to shut for the night.

But while some closed up and prepared for the following day's festivities, Escondido in Sandgate opened its doors and, surprisingly (to me, anyway) the place was busy.

The restaurant, set back from the seafront on a corner of busy Sandgate high street, is just a stone's throw from its previous location, which suffered a fire in 2008.

Its relocation, however, seems to have brought a fresh feel to that end of the high street, which over the years has had to compete with rival watering holes and restaurants just metres from the water's edge.

Other businesses tried and failed, but something about Escondido tells me it's here to stay.

The restaurant itself is bright and welcoming, with the typical Mexican orange-and-yellow décor, and the staff friendly and attentive without being intrusive.

After being seated, my guest and I ordered a carafe of Pinot (£11.99) and looked over the menu.

We'd made the error of turning up ravenous and so quickly placed our order.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



To start, we chose the queso fondue (£9.99) to share: melted Monterey Jack cheese with sweet chillies, spring onions, potato wedges and chorizo sausage.

It was delicious and indulgent, everything you would want from a Mexican dish: big flavours and a combination of hot, spicy and sweet.

For my second course I chose the traditional Mexican dish of fajitas (£12.49) with crispy duck coated in a chilli-and-orange glaze.

The sizzling plate was served with guacamole, tomato salsa, sour cream, cheese, jalapenos, refried beans, salad and flour tortillas.

And they certainly didn't scrimp on the por-

tions. My guest went for the chilli crock pot (£11.49): chunks of sirloin and minced beef with Mexican spices and a cheeky slug of beer, coated in melted cheese with salsa, guacamole, sour cream and flour tortillas on the side.

The main dishes were fantastic, but my guest and I could barely move afterwards.

The dessert menu, however, was far too tempting to ignore and my dining companion ordered a refreshing lemon sorbet (£3.99).

I decided to indulge yet again and opted for the waffles, which came with chocolate chunks, maple syrup, blueberries, strawberries and vanilla ice-cream (£4.99). But that signalled the end for me. After waving the white flag, I sadly had to leave the last few bites.

Escondido was warm, welcoming and fresh, the food absolutely delicious. But for those of you with eyes bigger than your bellies, be warned – I was so full I practically had to be carried out of the restaurant.

The final bill came to £55.44.

Marijke Cox

■ **Escondido, 28 High Street, Sandgate, Folkestone CT20 3AP**
Telephone: 01303 246624
Email: eat@escondido.co.uk
Website: www.escondido.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month.

EGERTON: This farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall.

MERSHAM: Featuring produce from the immediate area is the market now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

MEOPHAM: This farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

HILDENBOROUGH: Every Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

IWADE: The village hall farmers' market opened in February 2009; it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm, offering seasonal local produce.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk



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VISITORS to Howletts Wild Animal Park will discover the intricacies of family life in the animal kingdom this month. January's theme is Family Fortunes and there will be

themed events and activities for visitors to join. Animal director Neil Spooner said: "We have decided to have a specific theme each month at the park."

"Visitors can become involved in the activities and trails and find out more about the animals here and our conservation work."

Every weekend throughout January there will be a self-guided trail to follow to learn about family groupings, along with a range of talks and animal family games in the education centre.

Prepare for the kings of swing Pleasure beat

Astor Theatre, Deal
Friday, January 13
01304 370220
www.theastor.org

THE Astor is welcoming King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys next week for some much-needed upbeat New Year music. The group are renowned

around the world, having been on the road for two decades playing every European country as well as the US and Russia – they have recorded 10 CDs. Dazzling musicianship and entertaining stage performances have seen the group make more than 50 TV appearances and 75 radio broadcasts.

Regularly described as the kings of swing, Paul Jones on BBC Radio 2 called them "the hardest act to follow since the parting of the Red Sea". A must-see in an intimate venue.



Local, live and ready to rock Get Wired!

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, January 14
01892 530613

SICK of the same old boring pop music in the charts? Then head for a local and live show at the Assembly Hall Theatre next week.

A new live-music event for unsigned Kent bands looking to make a break into the business is set to lift the roof. The Wired show will include

performances from Intraverse, Fearless Vampire Killers, Sorrel Nation, Alice Amelia and Guy Osborn.

Headliners Intraverse boast rock-solid rhythms and two diamond-edged guitars as funky as they are heavy. Their release Please Don't Share Your Kisses has climbed the iTunes chart, the band recently released a video for Grant Me Permission, and they played the Download festival in the summer. Tickets cost £6.50 and are available at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



A big top of horrors The circus of fears

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, March 8
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

JUST 16 years after its conception at the 1995 Glastonbury Festival, the Circus of Horrors has achieved cult status.

It has dragged circus screaming and shouting into the 21st century.

Having already toured the world, the circus is back with a new show focusing on Berlin in 1921, three years after the First World War. This was the roaring twenties, a decadent decade that featured the birth of the cabaret.

One particular venue was struggling to make ends meet until Dr Haze rolled into town with his Vampire Vaudeville show, featuring twisted contortionists, flying aerialists, demon dwarfs, voodoo warriors and sword-swallowers.

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Walk tall with leading artist Hamish Fulton

Turner Contemporary, Margate

Tue, January 17, to Mon, May 7
01843 233 000

TOP artist Hamish Fulton's first one-man show in a UK public gallery since 2002 is heading to the Turner. The exhibition brings together works from the early 1970s to the present, including a new film of a group walk in Margate commissioned by Turner Contemporary in the lead-up to the opening of the gallery. Based in Kent, Fulton has made walking the basis of his art for the past three decades, producing photography, text and sketches that evolve from the experience of solo and group walks. He describes himself as a "walking artist". Also on show is a group of prints, photo-text pieces and woodworks, many of which have not been exhibited in the UK before. For more information, visit www.turnercontemporary.org.



Kast Offs in name only Some Kinks

The Forum, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, March 3, at 8pm
01892 557333
Tickets £13 in advance

THREE former members of legendary mod band The Kinks have got together to form their own tribute act. The Kast Off Kinks include Mick Avory, Ian Gibbons and

Jim Rodford, who all took their places alongside the great Davies Brothers on stage at different times in the band's long history. Alongside Dave Clark, who has worked with The Beach Boys and Noel Redding, the group produce the closest thing to the original Kinks available today. Top songs like You Really Got Me, Waterloo Sunset, All Day And All Of The Night, Lola and Tired Of Waiting are all performed live as the boys look to keep the fabulous music alive for fans old and new.



The age of the GEEK Expo for games fans

Winter Gardens, Margate

Wednesday to Sunday, February 15-19
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

GAMES fans will be thrilled to learn that Margate is hosting an exhibition just for them. The Games Expo East Kent, or GEEK, exhibition is a contemporary event developed to celebrate the culture of videogaming and attract national attention to the regeneration of the area, as well as celebrate Britain's videogame heritage. GEEK 2012 is built around an interactive day featuring more than 150 playable consoles, networked PCs and thousands of games. The Winter Gardens will host the main exhibition showcasing the history of video games from the earliest examples to the most recent blockbusters. Tickets are priced at £12.

A horrible lot ... all in 3D History show

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Tue, Jan 31, to Sat, Feb 4
01892 530613

HAVE you ever wanted to travel back in time and see what it was like during the reign of tyrannical monarchs and roaming warriors? Well, with the on-stage

Horrible Histories, now you can. Using actors and groundbreaking 3D special effects, this astounding show is guaranteed to thrill you and your children. Historical figures and events will come alive on stage and hover at your fingertips. Watch evil Elizabeth, hear the legends about the torturing Tudors and find out the fate of Henry's headless wives and his punch-up with the Pope. Tickets are priced at £10 and available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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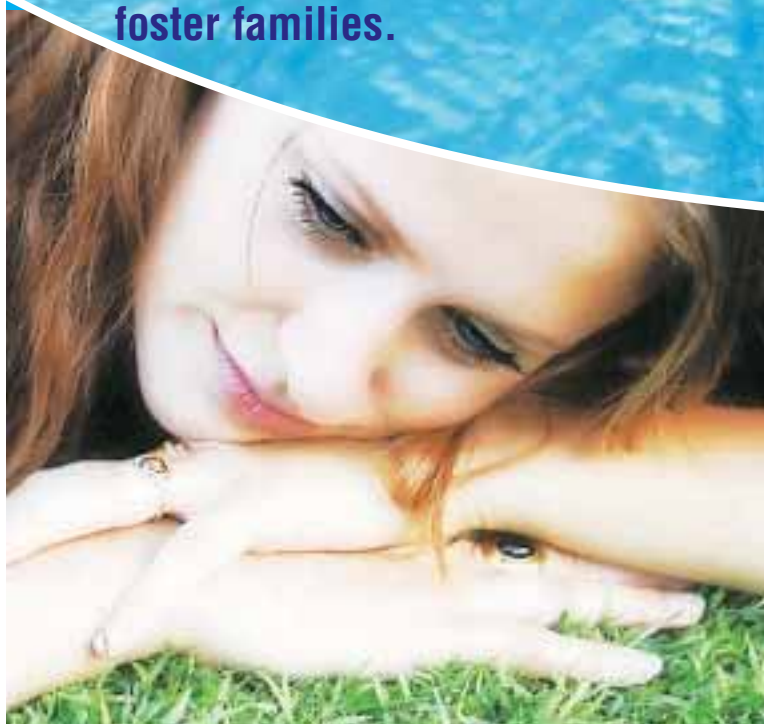
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Transformation of mill site begins

THE start of work at an old papermill site in Dover was marked when the foundations for the first apartments were laid alongside substantial new infrastructure.

Partners including the Homes And Communities Agency (HCA), Gillcrest Homes and Town & Country housing group were at the Buckland Mill site to view progress.

This was part of the transfer of Regional Development Agency land, property and other assets to the HCA. In total, 73 sites were transferred from the South East Regional Development Agency into the HCA's newest programme, Economic Assists.

The HCA is working with Dover District Council to make sure the site is developed to meet local need through joint business planning. As such, a business plan is being prepared with the aim of completing development within the next 10 years. The business plan is set to be finalised early this year.

Naisha Polaine of the HCA said: "This site is in an area with low affordable-housing provision and relatively high unemployment levels. Being able to reuse old buildings and land and bring them up to date for housing, and potentially other uses, is going to really benefit the area, so we are delighted to be involved."

The first phase includes 56 affordable homes and a care home of 80 beds due to be completed by the end of 2012.

Tim Warren, Town & Country new initiatives manager, said: "We have been working in partnership on this scheme for some time, so it is great to see the foundations going down as I know it marks the first steps to what will be a modern, vibrant and thoroughly exciting development, providing much-needed affordable housing in the area."

Discussions are ongoing around future phases, which could include converting the former mill director's house into offices, and private housing



with the conversion of some of the old mill buildings fronting Crabble Hill.

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "We are very pleased to see construction taking place, bringing this important site back into use as part of the major regeneration of the district."

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Bad survey? You could still buy the home

HOUSE-BUYERS spend months searching for the right property and speaking to lenders to secure funding, but all too often their hopes are shattered when the results of a building survey are not good. However, buyers shouldn't just walk away, says Buss Murton Law.

Solicitor Gemma Blizard at the Tunbridge Wells firm said: "While it can be very disappointing to both the buyer and the seller to find out a problem has been uncovered, buyers shouldn't immediately walk away without considering all the options."

"Firstly, put the faults into context. It will be difficult to find any house which a surveyor deems to be perfect - it is their job to uncover faults, so ask them to explain the findings."

"Don't forget you can ask for the advice of experts, sometimes without having to pay out."

Ask a local builder, electrician or plumber to give you their opinion on the work and how urgently it would need remedying."

Good communication can be key. According to Ms Blizard: "If the issue is more serious, talk to the seller and ask them to obtain a structural engineer's report to explain the fault. In the current market, sellers should be happy to do a fair share of the homework to provide you with enough information to make an informed decision, but the structural report is only binding between the seller and the structural engineer and as such you would not be able to sue the engineer if it was found to be incorrect."

"Finally, don't be afraid to negotiate on the price. If the seller really wants to move, they will have to accept their property has faults and will need to adjust the price accordingly."

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LEADING THE WAY: Renault has revamped the pioneering Scénic for 2012, adding two new eco-friendly engines to a five-strong line-up

Renault takes the stunning Scénic route into new year

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT has to bear the best ever name for a MPV, and was the car that sparked the boom in such flexible family motors.

And though the pioneering Renault Scénic – launched in 1996 – has since lost its leadership of a compact MPV sector now dominated by the Vauxhall Zafira and several Citroën Picassos, it remains a star.

Furthermore, both the five-seat Scénic and its seven-seat Grand Scénic sister have had a revamp for 2012 that will enhance their popularity.

Due in showrooms for February, they have a revised nose, with gloss black and chrome detailing, plus LED daytime running lights and new rear lights.

Buyers are even more spoilt for engine choice, with two new eco-friendly units in a five-strong line-up: a turbocharged 1.2 TCe 115 petrol and 1.5 dCi 110 Stop/Start diesel – the latter can average nearly 70mpg.

There is also the 1.6 dCi 130 diesel, which Renault claims is the world's most powerful engine of its type for its size, and it's frugal too – 64.2 mpg (combined cycle) with CO2 emissions of just 115g/km, equating to zero road tax in

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year one and £30/year thereafter.

We managed a preview of the new-look range in a top spec Grand Scénic Dynamique Tom Tom – it has a factory-fitted sat nav developed jointly by Renault and budget sat nav developer Tom Tom.

Priced at £22,200, you get a lot for your money, including all the electrics you would expect plus cruise control, rain-sensing wipers, rear sunblinds, seat back tables for the rear passengers and smart 16-inch alloys, and I would be tempted by the £1,500 leather pack – black leather seats, heated front ones with electric adjustment for the driver.

Standard equipment also includes a jaw-dropping 40 stowage spaces – totalling 83 litres plus an impressive boot volume of 564 litres, expanding to 2,063 litres with rear seats folded – the five rear chairs can be arranged in any format according to passenger/cargo needs.

Our car was fitted with the 1.6 dCi 130 diesel, which proved every bit as impressive as Renault says it is, with good acceleration, smooth running and, of course, those frugal consumption figures.

Progress is biased more towards a superb ride rather than tight handling, but that is why most customers will be buying this stylish MPV.

CX-5 adopts new tech approach to crossover sector

MAZDA made an inauspicious start in the SUV sector when it launched the CX-7 in 2007.

The newcomer was big and sporty, but a thirsty petrol engine as the only power option was not what buyers wanted just as a recession loomed.

A diesel arrived eventually, but the chance to stake a claim in a lucrative sector was lost.

At least for the time being – but Mazda plans an all-new sporting SUV/crossover launch for spring and it will also be the flag waver for a new campaign by the Japanese marque.

The new CX-5 will make use of SKYACTIV technology that the Zoom-Zoom brand has been working on since 2006, claimed to pioneer a new way of building cars making greater use of standardised architecture beneath the skin and enhancing Mazda's drive to slash weight, consumption and emissions.

It also wears a bold new

five-point grille tipped to become Mazda's new corporate face, and should compete well against the likes of the Nissan Qashqai and Ford Kuga, and possibly the classy VW Tiguan and Honda CR-V.

It will launch with a diesel engine available in two outputs and one petrol unit and we can expect it to maintain Mazda's sporty reputation while being green – an automatic engine stop-start for sluggish traffic conditions will be standard – which means it should appeal to company car drivers on both counts.

Early reports suggest that the in-built lightness of the car delivers great agility and virtually none of the lean associated with high-riding SUV-style cars and, like rivals such as the Qashqai, it will be available in front-wheel drive or 4x4 formats.

Will this be the car to crack this sector for Mazda?



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*Price relates to Aveo 1.2 LS featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £375. Available at participating Dealers only. Specification varies across the range. Image shown is an Aveo 1.4 LTZ, available at £11,195. Offer ends 31st March 2012. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations only. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Spark, New Aveo, Cruze, Orlando, Captiva and Corvette. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Price correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo range: Urban - 31.4 (9.0) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban - 52.3 (5.4) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined - 41.5 (6.8) - 78.4 (3.6). CO₂ emissions 159 - 95g/km.

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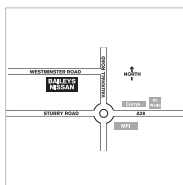


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Countryman leads the way

By Sam Davison

editorial@archant.co.uk

MINI'S launch of the Countryman in 2010 was more pivotal than it appeared.

Until then, every Mini model was visibly derived from the original hatchback – the convertible was a roofless spin-off and the Clubman was the estate version.

The bigger five-door Countryman was a genuinely different model though; the BMW marque had become a serious brand.

The Countryman was also pitched into a burgeoning new sector – the crossover segment launched by Nissan's fabulously successful Qashqai. It means it competes as a family hatchback, MPV and, with the four-wheel drive ALL4 option, an SUV. The styling has elements too of the 'funky chunky' SUV look that characterises the Qashqai and its rivals.

However, the Countryman can't really compete with the Nissan, as it doesn't have the same space – Toyota's Urban Cruiser is a closer rival.

Still, the Mini is a premium and image-building buy that appeals to many, and at a sensible price starting from £16,445, with ALL4 versions from an equally appealing £20,400 (Mini Cooper D Countryman ALL4) – you pay a modest £1,200 extra for 4x4 versus standard front-wheel drive versions like our Cooper D Countryman (£19,210) test car.

Judging by comments during the loan, the jury is out on whether the Countryman has the visual appeal of its hatchback sister and its offshoots, but the car definitely looks better for the white roof – a no-cost option along with door mirror caps in white, though you can pay for extra customisation. This has the visual effect of lowering the car, which rides higher – SUV style – than the Mini hatchback.

The interior, as ever with Mini, is exemplary. It uses the same retro format as the hatchback series with a big circular display aping the 60s

MINI COOPER D COUNTRYMAN: PRICE £19,210

FACT FILE



Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Road tax: £30 (zero year one)
Best rival: Toyota Urban Cruiser

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**STYLISH
LITTLE
MOVER:**

The Mini Countryman's interior pays homage to the 1960s car, but the new model's high driving position makes it quite unlike the originals

original's speedometer – speed is also shown digitally dead ahead of the driver.

However, you do have to access many electronic controls via a centralised system rather than separate buttons and it takes time to become instinctive, so it feels more like a gimmick than a labour-saver. The L-shaped handbrake handle also seems a like a pointless adaptation, even an encumbrance at times.

But the interior is well constructed and pays homage to the 60s car. The higher driving position though, is quite unlike the original, giving a superb view out everywhere – except around unusually thick windscreen pillars.

Ironically, the inner space design of the 60s original is not reflected in this modern day revision; the latest crash protection is part of the reason, but the Countryman's need to be more premium means that it can't make do with 1960s seats.

Instead, the car has thicker and classier looking versions; comfort levels are first class,

though the middle rear seat is minimalist and most owners will use it in its secondary role – folded down as an armrest for the two passengers on either side.

All three seats fold independently though, giving the Countryman MPV-style load flexibility ahead of a deep and surprisingly spacious boot for its size.

Out on the road, the Countryman springs another surprise; despite its height it does not have that MPV/SUV tendency to lean into the corners and proves to be as much a point-and-shoot driver pleaser as its smaller sisters – even with the run flat winter tyres fitted to the test car.

I found it an excellent all-rounder during a long trip to the Midlands and back via motorways and back roads.

The 112bhp 1.6-litre diesel delivers good low down punch for a fast take-off at junctions, but also cruises quietly in its tall sixth gear – an average around 60mpg should be possible for most drivers.

First **GEAR**

MOTORING NEWS



Renault plugs into Maidstone

MOTORLINE Renault of Maidstone has been named as one of only 21 UK Renault ZE Expert dealers upgraded to handle the French marque's new range of electric vehicles.

The move has been triggered by the arrival of Renault's tax-beating Kangoo Van ZE (zero emission), which is expected to appeal to urban operators with lots of stops.



Lexus looking to the future

WILL they build it? We hope so.

This futuristic concept coupé, the LF-LC 2+2, comes from Japanese brand Lexus.

Toyota's premium arm says it is "an exercise to explore the future of Lexus design", but car fans will say "you cannot afford not to build this car" – it's the kind of halo model to put Lexus on the map against German rivals.



X-Trail's given Platinum feel

NISSAN has created an ultimate X-Trail SUV and it's not surprising it has been called the Platinum.

Priced from £29,180, just 200 are to be sold in the UK.

It comes with extra chrome, leather upholstery, electrically-adjustable and heated front seats, plus other goodies. Like all X-Trails, it is also a good mix of affordable on- and off-roader.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-2k (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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VAUXHALL

Hyundai takes the i30 higher

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONWARDS and upwards should sum up the expectations of any company, but Hyundai has adopted the motto with a vengeance.

It only produced its first car in 1968 and even that was a Ford Cortina built as a co-operative venture with Ford; but today, along with its Kia subsidiary, it is the fourth largest carmaker in the world.

Most impressive has been its progress in the last five years or so, with the 'i' range of mainstream cars. They might not have the iconic status of Apple electronic products prefixed by the same vowel, but they have transformed the UK buyer's view of the Korean brand.

The first 'i' car was the i30, launched in 2007, targeting the Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf no less and making a good fist of it with high quality and dynamics added to Hyundai's known virtues of value and specification, plus reliability backed by a five-year warranty.

More i-models followed, using the same blueprint and with increasing emphasis on quality



FLUIDIC:

Hyundai's stylish 'i' cars are constantly being improved

and style, the latest being the classy i40 Tourer and saloon tackling the Ford Mondeo sector.

No sooner have these arrived though and we are facing a replacement i30 early next year, with more evidence of Hyundai's onwards and upwards obsession.

Early glimpses of the car show a far more sophisticated look, clearly inspired by what Hyundai calls the 'fluidic' lines of the i40 and geared to European tastes. It will also be built, as before, at Hyundai's Czech Republic plant.

The new i30 will have a good range of powertrains: four engines with a total of six power options and CO2 emissions below 100 g/km thanks to an upgraded version of the current car's popular, smooth and lively 1.6-litre diesel.

It will launch around March, initially as a five-door hatchback, but we can expect a useful yet stylish estate to follow.

In the meantime, check out Kent Hyundai dealers for some top deals on run-out examples of the current car – still a stout competitor in its class and unusually well-equipped. Don't rule out some specials or trim upgrades, either.



'Tis the season of winter driving

COMPARED with recent winters, this one has let us off lightly so far.

However, never forget how the weather can turn, so heed the usual tips on winter driving.

The most entertaining list issued to the media comes from Nissan, which is promoting a free winter health check until March 1 and a set of winter tyres from just £199.

The 15-point check covers areas such as, exhaust system, front brake pads/shoes, tyre tread depth, and fluid levels. The vehicle must be a Nissan at least three years old or more to be eligible, but the winter driving advice applies to all and makes use of the latest wrinkles... and some humour:

■ Don't just rely on the radio for announcements about accidents, road closures, and other information. Use modern methods such as Twitter: many councils and the Highways Agency have Twitter Gitter to share the latest information on road conditions.

■ Top up the washer bottle with a higher concentration of fluid in the water than usual, to prevent freezing. Then give the washers a good squirt so the stronger fluid can reach the nozzle.

■ Take a survival pack: warm clothing, a phone (with charger) and plenty of fuel are obvious items, and keep some long-life food in the car too, but don't take anything you'll enjoy eating or you may scoff it before a real emergency.

■ Gauge speed carefully in snow and ice – but don't drive too slowly or you'll



BE SAFE: Nissan is offering free winter health check for any of its cars over three years old, including the Murano

lose momentum, especially up hills.

■ Black ice is invisible, and can be deadly. When the temperature dips, be especially wary of roads alongside misty, open fields. If you see an accident, car-shaped hole in a hedge or fresh crumpled car debris up ahead in the road, slow to a crawling pace.

■ If you have a vehicle with four-wheel drive, don't get overconfident. The traction and force created by all four wheels driving instead of two helps you get going, but does not help you stop any faster or prevent skidding.

■ Running the engine on your driveway to demist the windows is sometimes essential, but don't leave it unattended. While you are not moving, turn off all unnecessary drains on the electrical system so the fans and heating elements can work more efficiently.

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<p>2008/08 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6T DESIGN 3 DOOR</p> <p>In metallic midnight black half faux leather interior-air con-electric windows-factory fitted sat nav-alloy wheels-electric heated adjustable door mirrors-c/d in car entertainment system-multiple airbags-drivers seat height adjustment-multifunction steering wheel-front fog lights-automatic windshield wipers-piano black dashboard-automatic lights-six speed gearbox-lots of spec and very reasonably priced at only £6,495</p>	<p>2010/60 PLATE AUDI A4 S LINE 2.0 TDI 143BHP 4 DOOR</p> <p>In metallic stardust silver with contrasting black leather interior-sat nav-air con-remote control central locking-electric windows-6 speed gearbox-electric adjustable door mirrors-front fog lights-multifunction steering wheel-front and rear parking sensors-alloy wheels-daylight running headlights c/d in-car entertainment system-multiple air bag protection system-1 owner from new, only 12,000 miles has two years Audi warranty remaining, was £22,995 Now £19,995</p>	<p>2003/03 PLATE PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0 SE CONVERTIBLE</p> <p>In Metallic midnight Black with contrasting full back leather interior-air conditioning-electric windows-remote control central locking-front fog lights-alloy wheels-multiple air bag protection system-electric power roof-c/d in-car entertainment system-multi function steering wheel-electric adjustable door mirrors-power steering-drivers seat height adjustment-this car is offered with a full service history, sensibly priced at only £3,995</p>	<p>2008/57 PLATE CITROEN C4 PICASSO 2.0HDI VTR AUTO</p> <p>In Metallic Ruby Red with contrasting black cloth interior-7 seats-air conditioning-alloy wheels-sat nav-rear fog lights-remote control central locking-electric front and rear windows-c/d in-car entertainment system-electric heated door mirrors-front fog lights-multifunction steering wheel-c/d in car entertainment system-soft anchor points in front passenger and rear seats-the car is an ideal family car which offers good fuel economy reasonably priced at only £7,995</p>
<p>2006/06 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI EDGE 5 DOOR</p> <p>In metallic moonstone silver with contrasting black cloth interior-air conditioning-electric windows-sat nav-alloy wheels-remote control central locking-6 speakers-alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-front passenger armrest-multiple air bag protection system-electric adjustable door mirrors-front fog lights-electric drivers seat height adjustment-this car has great fuel economy and would make a good family car £3,995</p>	<p>2008/08 PLATE CITROEN C4 PICASSO 1.6HDI VTR+</p> <p>In Midnight Black with contrasting black cloth interior-7 seats-air conditioning-alloy wheels-cruise control-remote control central locking-electric front and rear windows-multiple air bag protection system-electric heated door mirrors, front fog lights-multifunction steering wheel-c/d in car entertainment system-soft anchor points in front passenger and rear seats-this car is an ideal family car which offers good fuel economy reasonably priced at only £7,995</p>	<p>2007/07 PLATE CITROEN C4 1.6 SX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR</p> <p>In metallic stardust silver with contrasting black cloth interior-alloy wheels-electric adjustable door mirrors-air conditioning-remote control central locking-Electric windows-c/d in car entertainment system-drivers seat height adjustment-front fog lights-this car has a full service history sensibly priced at only £4,995</p>	<p>2007/57 PLATE PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 5 DOOR</p> <p>In metallic twilight blue with contrasting black and grey cloth interior-climate control-alloy wheels-electric heated door mirrors-remote control central locking-multiple air bag protection system-electric windows-front center arm rest-driver and passenger seat height adjustment-CD in car entertainment system-multifunction steering wheel-this car offers great fuel economy with low cost tax and insurance groups sensibly priced at only £4,995</p>

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2012

ONESTOWATCH

Dan Richie Rowing

THE Olympic rowing regatta usually provides a sizeable boost to the British medals tally and the Herne Bay man has a great chance of claiming a place on the podium in August.

The 25-year-old broke into the senior set-up shortly after the Beijing Games in 2008 and has been part of the men's eight ever since.

Ritchie, a two-time world silver medallist, is recovering from hamstring surgery but should have plenty of time to win back his place in the crew for the showdown at Dorney Lake.



Jack Green Athletics

THE 400m hurdler enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2011, slashing his personal best en route to becoming the European under-23 champion while still a teenager.

Selection for the World Athletics Championships followed and although the Maidstone athlete fell short of reaching the final in Daegu, it provided useful experience of a major senior event.

Fitness permitting Green should be on track for the London Olympics, where he will be looking to push training partner Dai Greene.



Motorbase Motorsport

THE privateers' steady progress in the British Touring Car Championship turned into a giant leap forward last year when they became bona fide title contenders.

Mat Jackson led the championship after the halfway stage, before a late collapse which owed much to misfortune.

The Wrotham-based team ended with no silverware to show for their efforts and will be determined to come back stronger this year. If they can keep Jackson hopes will be high for another season of worrying the works teams.



Michael West Football

THE talented midfielder does not turn 21 until next month but already has more than 100 senior appearances for Ebbsfleet United under his belt.

Pivotal in the side's promotion back to the Conference Premier last May, West has looked comfortable at the higher level.

A return of eight goals before the new year has attracted a host of Football League scouts. Fleet boss Liam Daish will be a happy man if the January transfer window closes with West still at Stonebridge Road.



CRICKET

Caribbean contacts give new Kent coach overseas options

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

THE odds on a player from the Caribbean arriving at Kent this season are tumbling after new head coach Jimmy Adams admitted to expecting "first refusal" on West Indies talent looking for a move to county cricket.

The Jamaican, who turns 44 on Monday, was officially unveiled as the successor to Paul Farbrace at the St Lawrence Ground on Tuesday.

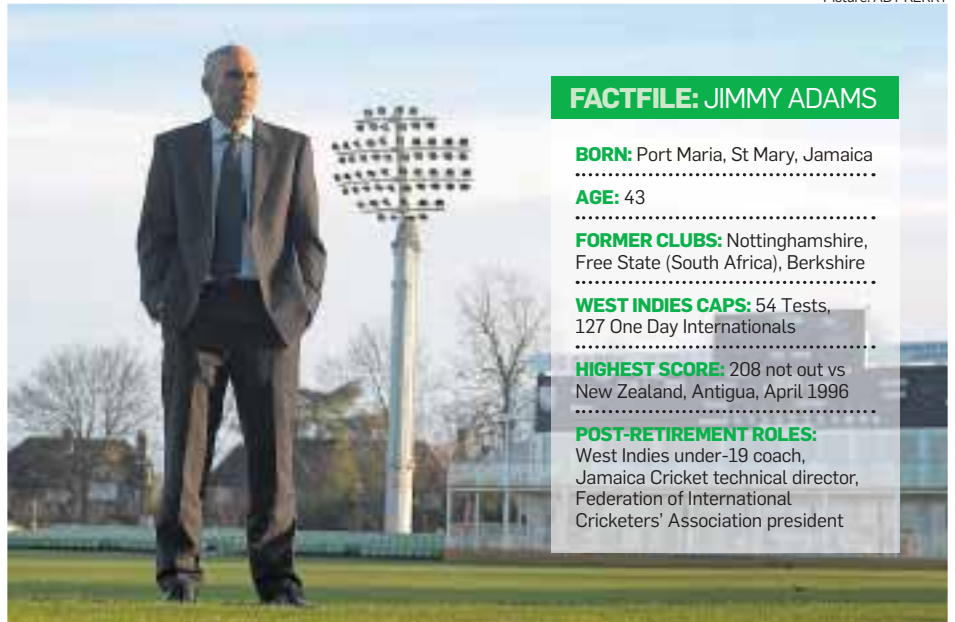
Kent have made only tentative progress so far in searching for potential overseas players for this summer, but Adams' contacts are likely to come in useful.

The West Indies are in England at the start of the season, before hosting New Zealand in a tour which lasts until early August. While it would make their internationals unavailable until the final weeks of the county season, it is a period which includes five LV= County Championship games, the climax to the Clydesdale Bank 40 group stage and the Friends Life T20 finals day.

Adams admitted the schedule would be a hindrance, but the former West Indies skipper did not dismiss the idea.

"With the sort of itineraries that these international players have I don't know how easy it is for any international player now to commit to a full season of county cricket," he said.

"It's so full, the itineraries, for every country. It's good to have a line at least into one team internationally where if there are players available and willing then you'd expect to have right



Picture: ADY KERRY

FACTFILE: JIMMY ADAMS

BORN: Port Maria, St Mary, Jamaica

AGE: 43

FORMER CLUBS: Nottinghamshire, Free State (South Africa), Berkshire

WEST INDIES CAPS: 54 Tests, 127 One Day Internationals

HIGHEST SCORE: 208 not out vs New Zealand, Antigua, April 1996

POST-RETIREMENT ROLES:

West Indies under-19 coach, Jamaica Cricket technical director, Federation of International Cricketers' Association president

NEW DAWN:

Jimmy Adams will begin at St Lawrence once a work visa is approved, which is expected by the end of the month

of first refusal."

Adams returned to Jamaica this week and will not be back in the country to take up his new post in earnest until obtaining visa clearance.

Despite holding a variety of cricketing roles in retirement, it will be the first senior head coaching role for Adams, who acknowledged there will be an element of the unknown.

He said: "I have done a tremendous amount of work over the years with the Jamaican national team, I've toured with them as manager and assistant coach over the last three or four years, but in terms of being the gaffer, yes it will be a little bit of a leap."

The lack of coaching pedigree meant the former Nottinghamshire player was barely mentioned in the rumours about the potential candidates for the job. His philosophy quickly appealed in the rigorous selection process, though, impressing Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive.

He said: "Jimmy gets across his passion very well. He cares about creating a culture. Everything seemed to chime, in a sense we didn't brief him on who we were or where we were but he seemed to fit with our here and now."

Adams was equally at home during the press conference this week and was particularly

keen to stress his desire to stay well beyond his initial two year contract with the county.

He said: "In a very broad sense I'd like to think we can create an environment where everybody grows - support staff, myself, the players, even the admin staff to a certain extent.

"It's that which excites me and watching the process, being able to I hope play a significant role in that and to have the satisfaction I'm hoping in five or six years' time to sit down and reflect with people and say 'listen, there has been growth, hopefully significant growth, and there's some silverware to prove it'."

Impressive communicator Adams worthy of chance to prove himself

IF TROPHIES were awarded purely for being nice, Kent would be in for a stellar couple of seasons following their decision to name Jimmy Adams head coach, writes Fred Atkins.

He was described by the club's chief executive Jamie Clifford as a "very impressive communicator" and this is an understatement. The 43-year-old has the knack of being able to make everyone he talks to feel like the most important person in the room.

Adams also has strong connections with the area, having played for Maidstone's Lashings World XI for a decade.

Lashings' only house rule is that no prima donnas are allowed. Nobody is allowed to refuse an autograph and Adams is among the most obliging of the stars on the roster - although he did once yell "He lies! He lies!" into my voice

recorder when I tried to interview Henry Olunga at Sutton Valence.

As an interviewee he is among the most engaging on the circuit.

It's virtually impossible to find anyone to disparage him although Dermot Reeve, on seeing a member of the crowd fall asleep at a Test match, once quipped: "Is that because of Jimmy Adams' badding?" (Sic).

It's true that as a batsman Adam was an obdurate accumulator of runs rather than a stereotypical West Indian showman, but his appointment is a progressive move.

There are still disproportionately few black coaches working in professional cricket, making Kent's decision to appoint Adams to such a senior position a groundbreaking one from a county not always known for its forward thinking.



Picture: ADY KERRY

RELAXED: Jimmy Adams during his unveiling

CRICKET

Wicketkeeper in safe hands at top level academy in Australia

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

A WINTER spent training at a renowned academy in Australia is paying dividends for a Sittingbourne cricketer with high hopes of making it to the very top of the sport.

Christian Marsh was part of the Gore Court side relegated from Division One of the Kent Cricket League last summer, but while his club-mates have had to make do with indoor net sessions the 21-year-old has been pushing himself to the limit in world class facilities.

As part of the MCC Young Cricketers programme, the wicketkeeper is spending six months training at the Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy in Adelaide. Recent players to come through the intense environment include Scott Borthwick, whose improvement after attending last winter led to a call-up for the England One Day International side.

The academy tackles all aspects of becoming a professional athlete, with an emphasis on fitness work. It includes gruelling sessions in the 'Snake Pit', where the players train among sand dunes to the point of exhaustion, which Marsh describes as "the hardest thing I've ever done".

Marsh, whose father Steve spent 18 years at Kent, is feeling the benefits of the full-time coaching and believes he could eventually emulate Borthwick and play international cricket.

"Of course, that's the aim," he said. "If I didn't believe I could play for England I wouldn't be playing the game, that's the way I am. I see myself as a gutsy cricketer who works hard and likes challenges and every day here is a challenge. We have a good bunch of guys here and we're always pushing each other. You're out of your comfort zone every day."

"It's hard work. There's a lot of fitness work where they push you to your limits, which is good. I'm surrounded by people playing first class cricket, which is a very good experience."



Picture: MCC

FOCUSED: Christian Marsh is optimistic the time in Adelaide will boost chances of a county contract

I've improved as a cricketer and a person already."

Marsh came through the youth set-up at Kent but was not offered a contract at the end of his stay at the St Lawrence Ground. Instead he was picked up by the MCC, playing second XI cricket for them last summer.

After completing his stay in South Australia, the former Rodmersham youngster will spend two weeks in Abu Dhabi with the rest of the MCC Young Cricketers squad as they take on county sides in pre-season games.

Marsh is hoping to undergo trials but believes this summer will be too soon to earn a profes-

sional contract with a major county. The aim is to convert the improvements made Down Under into a successful season with bat and gloves and impress sufficiently to sign a deal for the 2013 season.

He said: "It will be a very crucial summer for me personally. I have improved my game while I've been out here and I just feel confident now. I can go and try to dominate at second XI level, hopefully get some runs and keep well, starting in pre-season. If I do that hopefully the counties won't be able to ignore me."

"You never know where I could be this time next year."

FOOTBALL

Tough tests await Dowley and Taylor

AFTER a holiday period which could not have been any crueller, Sittingbourne face a daunting test this weekend when Whitehawk visit Bourne Park.

The Brighton-based side are second in Ryman Division One South after taking maximum points from their three Christmas fixtures, while Sittingbourne lost all three of theirs.

Bryan Glover and Jonathan Hogg will both be available to manager Joe Dowley despite picking up red cards against Maidstone and Ramsgate respectively.

Glover was sent off for a second bookable offence during the Bricks' 3-0 home defeat to tenants Maidstone United on Monday, while the same fate befell Hogg in injury time at Ramsgate on New Year's Eve, but neither ban will kick in until after this weekend.

The Maidstone defeat concluded a



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

POOR RUN: Bricks

trying holiday spell for Sittingbourne, which began when they were beaten 4-0 at Salters Lane in the Swale derby with Faversham on December 27.

Woodstock Sports have an attractive fixture at home to second-placed Erith Town on Saturday, minus manager Ben Taylor, who completes a two-game suspension.

After losing 3-1 to leaders Herne Bay last Wednesday, Woodstock moved up to fifth in the Kent League after a 2-1 win over Deal on Monday.

Goalkeeper Nick Shaw joined Whitstable Town this week, after he was unable to dislodge Jack Rankin.

RUGBY UNION

Swale pair aim for fast starts to the new year

THE London leagues return to action this weekend after a three-week lay-off with Sheppey hosting Uckfield at in London 3 South East.

The Islanders are sixth in the table, two places above their visitors, who they memorably beat earlier this season, winning 15-10 after conceding two early tries.

Sheppey's last outing saw them lose ground on the front-runners when an injury-hit side lost 17-0 at home to Medway.

Sittingbourne face a potentially tricky home game with Cranbrook in Kent 1.

The Bourne are seventh in the table, one place higher than the Cranes, who have lost their last two games. Sittingbourne leapfrogged them with a narrow 14-13 win at Whitstable in their last match,



Picture: DAVID HICKS

RETURN: Sittingbourne

a win that ended a mini-run of two consecutive defeats.

Sittingbourne trailed 13-5 with 55 minutes gone but rallied in the closing stages with three late penalties.

Sittingbourne's 2nds are away to Gravesend 4ths, while the thirds host Ash 2nds.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Stones right to play name game

“ WHEN someone decides to inject £150,000 into a non-league club, the normal reaction from supporters ought to be euphoria, but there was something peevish about the way some of Maidstone United's fans responded to the news Gallagher were handing a six-figure sum to the Stones this week.

While most were delighted, the muffled cheers from others were because the five-year deal involved selling the naming rights to the stadium at James Whatman Way.

On July 14 2012 Maidstone will play Charlton Athletic in the first ever game at the new Gallagher Stadium.

It's a day I and many other Maidstone fans doubted would ever come and it's unlikely it would have been possible had the club's new owners not rebuilt their links with Pat Gallagher, a businessman who was first involved with the club back in the 1980s.

The relationship soured when Gallagher fell out with former chairman Jim Thompson over a relatively trivial sum of money the former was owed.

Whatever the precise reasons for the fall-out were, Gallagher was exactly the kind of person Maidstone needed as a friend - a successful businessman in the construction industry, who helped transform Aylesford Bulls from a village rugby club into a state of the art facility, while the only thing going up at Whatman Way was the height of the weeds.

There's no doubt clubs can go too far when it comes to tampering with their identity. A colleague of mine still refuses to use the name "Ebbsfleet United" and for me the decision to sacrifice the name of the towns they represent and rebrand the club after a station was short-termed.

The overwhelming majority of professional football clubs have kept their names for a century or more and almost all of these represent a distinct geographical area. (In the top four divisions of English football the only exceptions are Arsenal and Port Vale).

Given the sponsorship deal Eurostar offered Gravesend & Northfleet the switch was understandable, but it's difficult to gauge the damage it did to the club's existing fan base. Attendances have remained fairly consistent but some resentment lingers.

Renaming an existing ground is asking for trouble, especially if it's done as ham-fistedly as Newcastle United did, and there's something undeniably jarring about referring to the Buzzlines Stadium, or Perry's Crabble.

It's understandable some fans have said they'll call the new venue Whatman Way, but there's never been a ground on the site, so there's no tradition to compromise.

And frankly after 23 years of waiting as long as they don't name it the Jim Thompson Memorial Ground or MFI Park I don't really care what the ground is called.

”

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